FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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24 July Middle East and South Asia Review

LD241328 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Following reports that the U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tanker *Bridgeton* hit a mine 24 July, IRNA cited Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi's statement that the explosion hit U.S. credibility and dealt an "irreparable blow" to U.S. prestige. "U.S. schemes were foiled by invisible hands and it was proved how vulnerable the Americans are," he asserted. A Tehran radio report on the incident cited "news circles" who believe the mines in the Persian Gulf were planted by the Iraqis in an attempt to create "tension" in the region. The radio noted that the *Bridgeton* was able to continue toward Kuwait and that none of the crew members were injured.

In another development, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced Iran's intention to adopt a "new policy of retaliation" whereby Iran will hit "economic centers" of Iraq's allies if the Iraqis attack Iranian economic centers and installations, IRNA reported. In Bonn, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed Iran's willingness to enter into a "constructive dialogue" with member governments of the UN Security Council if the Council names and condemns Iraq as the "aggressor," DPA noted.

For Iraq's part, President Saddam Husayn told his soldiers in a message broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio that they must continue with their daily duties as if the war is still continuing until Iraq has "tangible proof" that it has ended.

Among other developments relating to the conflict, IRNA reported that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed Libya's "unchangeable" support for Iran's position in the war. The Libyan leader also told the Iranian ambassador that Libya will assist Iran with all its means in the event of a U.S. "invasion."

In Belgrade, the SFRY authorities summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires to protest Iran's detention of a Yugoslav cargo ship at Bandar-e 'Abbas, TANJUG noted, disclosing that the Iranian envoy was informed of the SFRY's "great dissatisfaction" over the issue.

Iran

Punishments for Profiteers — A circular by the prime minister announced that "religious punishments" will be imposed to combat profiteering and rising prices, Tehran radio reported.

London Attack Denial — The Iranian Embassy in London condemned the 22 July shooting of a Palestinian journalist in a London street and attacked British press reports that Iran was responsible, London *Press Association* noted.

Israel and the Soviet Union

Moscow radio's Hebrew service has urged Israeli leaders to reconsider their plans to develop a missile that could hit Soviet territory, warning that Israel will not for long retain a monopoly on the introduction of nuclear weapons into the Middle East, Jerusalem television disclosed, citing a report from monitor Mikha'el Gurdus. The radio reportedly said the USSR views the development of the advanced model of the Jericho missile as a challenge and threat, and it claimed the United States is behind the Israeli program to build medium-range nuclear-capable missiles. "Authoritative" Israeli sources responded to the broadcast by stressing that the missile being developed by Israel is "under no circumstances" intended for use against Soviet targets, *Ha'aretz* reported.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in an interview broadcast by IDF radio that Israelis should not pin great hopes on reports that the Soviet Union has postponed supplying SS-23 missiles to Syria. The USSR may be withholding these weapons because of Syrian policy toward the PLO and Iraq rather than because of any friendship or concern for Israel, he maintained.

Nevertheless, *Hadashot* reported that the Soviets have indicated interest in resuming contacts with Israel at a higher level, citing a Foreign Ministry official's prediction that there may be new developments in relations with the USSR soon. *Hadashot* claimed that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' office is holding "secret contacts with Soviet elements" on a possible Peres visit to Moscow this year.

Lebanon

Hijacking — A "reliable" Beirut source cited by AFP identified the man who hijacked an Air Afrique jetliner to Geneva Airport 24 July as a Lebanese who was recently released from an Israeli prison. "Authoritative" sources in Paris said the hijacker demanded the release of the Hamadah brothers by the FRG authorities. The hijacker killed one of the passengers before being overpowered by Swiss police, the agency noted.

Hostages — The Islamic Jihad issued a communique warning that no French hostage will be released alive unless its demands are met, AFP reported. The communique was delivered to a press agency in Beirut, accompanied by a photograph of French hostage Jean-paul Kauffmann. However, the Jihad group denied having decided to execute two French hostages because of France's break with Iran, thereby contradicting the 17 July threat in this regard by an anonymous caller claiming to be from Islamic Jihad.

In Bonn, Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati promised to use Iran's good relations with Lebanese Muslim groups to try and secure the release of two FRG hostages, DPA noted.

Amal-Palestinian Clashes — An Amal Movement statement cited by Voice of National Resistance radio held followers of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat responsible for renewed fighting east of Sidon in which five people were killed or wounded. Another Amal statement accused the Palestinians of triggering the clashes in an attempt to obstruct the work of the newly formed Unification and Liberation Front, which has sent a committee to investigate the situation in Palestinian camps in the Tyre area and to "refute the rumors that have been disseminated by the trumpets of the Palestinian organizations," according to Beirut radio.

Libya

In a speech marking the 35th anniversary of the 23 July Egyptian revolution, Col al-Qadhdhafi claimed to be the "trustee" of Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir's heritage, asserting that nobody is more "Nasirite" or "closer" to Nasir than himself. Reviewing the "serious, catastrophic, and tragic actions against the Arab nation" resulting from the Camp David accords, Al-Qadhdhafi stressed that the "liberation" of Egypt from U.S. and Israeli "domination" is a pan-Arab duty.

Ethiopia-Sudan

The Ethiopian foreign minister told AFP that Sudan is training and arming Ethiopian secessionists from Eritrea and Tigre, and he denied Sudan's allegation that Ethiopian soldiers attacked a Sudanese military camp 20 July.

President Leaves for Lusaka, Addis Ababa Meetings

LD240428 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Chadli Benjedid, president of the Republic and FLN party secretary general, will depart today, Friday, for Lusaka at the head of a delegation participating in the meeting of the Committee of Presidents of the OAU states charged with monitoring the situation in South Africa. Later, the brother president will depart for Addis Ababa to participate in the 23d OAU summit proceedings.

Foreign Minister Ibrahimi Receives Envoys

LD191310 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, today received Mrs Khadidja Abderrahmane, Mauritanian minister of mines and industry. She conveyed a message from Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, head of state of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, to President Chadli Bendjedid.

Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi also received the Beninese foreign minister, who gave him a message from President Kerekou Mathieu to President Chadli Bendjedid.

Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi this morning received Faruq al-Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. The talks between the two sides concerned bilateral relations and the Palestinian cause.

PRC National Defense Delegation Arrives 8 Jul

LD091220 Algiers APS in Arabic 0845 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Algiers, 9 Jul (APS) — A Chinese delegation headed by Xie Guang, vice minister and vice chairman of the National Defense Science, Technology, and Industry Commission, arrived in Algiers Wednesday [8 July] afternoon on an official several-day visit.

The delegation was greeted upon its arrival by Lieutenant Colonel Ali Bouhaja, member of the [FLN] Central Committee and deputy inspector of the People's National Army; by senior officers, and by the PRC military attache to Algiers.

Delegation Departs 17 July

LD181032 Algiers APS in Arabic 0850 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Algiers, 18 Jul (APS) — A Chinese military delegation headed by Xie Guang, vice chairman of the National Defense Science, Technology, and Industry Commission, departed Algiers yesterday morning following its official several-day visit to Algeria.

The delegation was seen off at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Lieutenant Colonel Ali Bouhaja, member of the Central Committee and deputy inspector of the People's National Army; a number of senior Army officers, a representatives of the PRC Embassy in Algiers, and the Chinese military attache.

Habre Comments on OAU Committee Report, Summit

AB221025 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
0730 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] The suspense continues concerning President Hissein Habre's participation in the OAU summit meeting in Addis Ababa. In an exclusive interview given to Africa No 1 in Ndjamena yesterday, the Chadian head of state refused to make any statement on this issue. You will hear him in a few moments. But earlier, Treping Ganga asked him what he expected from the OAU ad hoc committee's report on the Chad-Libya border dispute. This committee is chaired by the Gabonese head of state, Omar Bongo.

[Begin recording] [Habre] At the initiative of President El Hadj Omar Bongo, who is the chairman of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya conflict, the committee began holding meetings. We consider this very important. As you know, this committee had not been able to meet and work seriously since its inception nearly 10 years ago. Therefore, the very fact that the committee met, deliberated, and prepared a report is extremely important. Chad has, as much as possible, frankly and faithfully cooperated with the committee. President El Hadj Omar Bongo will certainly submit the report's conclusions and perhaps his own comments to the summit meeting in a few days. The summit meeting will undoubtedly discuss these issues, and we hope that it will decide on the OAU ad hoc committee's deliberations. However, we obviously cannot judge beforehand and anticipate what will be decided at the summit meeting.

[Ganga] Mr President, will you travel to Addis Ababa?

[Habre] I would rather not answer that question. [end recording]

Minister Heads for Addis Ababa

AB221019 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
0530 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Gouara Lassou, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, who will represent Chad at the 46th OAU ministerial meeting, departed Ndjamena yesterday for Addis Ababa, where he is expected today.

Goukouni Blames Ndjamena for Halting Negotiations

AB231947 Paris AFP in French 1730 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Algiers, 23 Jul (AFP) — Goukouni Gueddei, chairman of the GUNT (Transitional National Union Government), on 17July accused the Ndjamena government of "halting negotiations" that began in Algiers last March on reaching reconciliation in Chad. In a communique sent to AFP in Algiers, where he is currently staying, Goukouni Oueddei also accused the Ndjamena government of equating "reconciliation" with "rallying."

"The negotiations were halted as a result of the Ndjamena delegation's departure from Algiers," Goukouni Oueddei's communique stated. The Chadian Government delegation led by Minister of Interior Mahamat Itno departed Algiers on 12 July for Paris, where President Hissein Habre was expected to make an official visit. Since then, it has been noted in Algiers that this delegation has not returned to the Algerian capital.

Goukouni Oueddei's communique additionally asserted that the "Ndjamena government considers reconciliation as rallying behind the current regime, while the GUNT considers that establishing a true and lasting peace can only be achieved by solving the major problems that caused the Chadian crisis."

"National reconciliation has not yet been achieved, contrary to Ndjamena's allegations, which are reported by certain countries," Goukouni Oueddei asserted. He pointed out that the Algiers' negotiations "have not yet made it possible to reach a compromise on reciprocal concessions." He called on the OAU, in particular, to "redouble its efforts to help Chadians find a peaceful solution to their conflict." He also called on GUNT militants "to mobilize themselves, calmly and vigilantly, in order to bar the way to troublemakers" in Chad.

'Abd al-Majid Discusses Visit to Israel

JN240904 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Interview with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by (Eldat Pardo) and (Edmund Zhayyiq) — date and place not given; recorded]

[Text] ['Abd al-Majid] Egypt is talking with all parties including Israel. I was invited to visit Israel and the president of the Republic approved this visit. The intention of this visit is to hold dialogue with officials and to discuss important topics related to peace. Nothing is more important than peace. I explained the Egyptian viewpoint regarding the peace conference and everything related to it. Naturally, there are differences in opinion regarding the situation in Israel. We fully understand this, but we are always eager to maintain this dialogue because it has the noble objective of bringing peace to the Israelis, Egyptians, Palestinian, Jordanians, Syrians, and Lebanese. This is the purpose of the dialogue and my visit.

[(Pardo)] This is the first visit to Israel by an Egyptian foreign minister in 6 years. Can we consider this visit and your meeting with Shamir a change or a step forward in Egyptian-Israeli relations?

['Abd al-Majid] Israeli-Egyptian relations are continuing. We have constant dialogue. We exchange ambassadors. In fact, my visit is a chance for further dialogue, especially since Shim'on Peres, Israeli vice prime minister and foreign minister, had visited us in Cairo earlier. During that visit, he discussed important topics with us. This visit actually continues useful contacts in the interest of all.

[(Zhayyiq)] From your talks with Shamir did you get the impression that it is possible to convince him to participate in an international conference?

['Abd al-Majid] We had a free, frank, and objective discussion. I explained my views and he explained his. It was a useful meeting. The point is not that one changed the other's opinion. At least both sides understood each other's viewpoint.

[(Pardo)] What is Egypt's stand toward Palestinian representation in an international conference or in any future talks in the region?

['Abd al-Majid] The PLO has the right to represent the Palestinians. We have said this before and I repeated this during my stay here in Israel. I believe the PLO is entitled to choose those whom it wishes to speak for the Palestinian people. In this way they can be committed. We encourage all parties to prepare for this conference, which is the only way to achieve peace in the Middle East.

[(Pardo)] Are the Palestinians responding to this stand?

['Abd al-Majid] The latest meeting was with Brother Hani al-Hasan in Cairo. He then visited Jordan. We call for coordination between Jordan and the Palestinian brothers. Egypt is always ready to reconcile brothers if differences arise. I believe all share this opinion.

[(Zhayyiq)] Mr Minister, regarding Soviet representation, will the Soviets agree to participate in a conference which endorses direct talks? What will Egypt's stand be if the Soviets insist on playing an effective role in the conference?

['Abd al-Majid] This is one of the most difficult topics under discussion. I cannot speak for the Soviet Union, but I explained our viewpoint by saying the international conference should lead to direct negotiations between the two sides. This is the most important point in the whole issue.

[(Pardo)] One last question. What do you think of Egypt's current status in the Arab world?

['Abd al-Majid] Egypt is part of the Arab world. It will never abandon the Arab world and the Arab world can never abandon Egypt. Our character and history are part of this great Arab world. We belong to the Arab world.

Saudi King Cables Mubarak on Revolution Anniversary

NC231457 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jul (MENA) — Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has sent a congratulatory cable to President Husni Mubarak on the occasion of the anniversary of the 23 July Revolution.

The Saudi king expressed, on his own behalf and on behalf of the people and Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, cordial congratulations and heartfelt best wishes for President Mubarak's health and happiness. He also wished the Egyptian people success and prosperity.

AL-SHA'B on Joint Military Maneuvers With U.S.

PM240917 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Jul 87 pp 1-2

[Mustafa al-Safani report: "Large-Scale Maneuvers To Use Our Sea and Airports for Intervention in Gulf"]

[Text] The "Bright Star" maneuvers scheduled for 19 August will be the biggest maneuvers the Middle East region has witnessed since the military cooperation agreement was signed between Egypt and the United States, for the following reasons:

First: It has definitely been decided that 15,000 U.S. military personnel will participate in these maneuvers. They are to arrive in Cairo in phases; an airport east of Cairo has been allocated for their arrival, from which they will make their movements between Cairo and training centers in some governorates. It has been decided that the number of Egyptian military personnel will not be less that 10,000 soldiers and officers.

Second: According to reliable sources, this year the maneuvers will include new military plans which the U.S. Armed Forces will implement, most of which focus on:

— Coordination between U.S. and Egyptian Armed Forces to be ready to prepare a military plan to protect navigation in the Arab Gulf when intervention by U.S. forces is officially declared; Egyptian military airports, as well as regional waters will be used as a staging posts.

— Some Egyptian military units are to be trained to use specific U.S. weapons, ignoring all Soviet weapons, which still function with high efficiency, since these maneuvers have been designed to suit U.S. weapons in particular and Western (France and Spain) weapons in general.

Third: A reliable source has revealed to *Al-Sha'b* that preparations for the "Bright Star" maneuvers began after a secret visit made by Jenes Theodore, commander of the U.S. 3d Army, last Wednesday, 3 June, following which 45 U.S. pilots arrived in Egypt to train a number of Egyptian pilots on some military plans which will be implemented for the first time during the maneuver.

In addition to this, *Al-Sha'b* has learned that Egypt agreed to maneuvers of this scale after Arab parties, in particular those of the Gulf region, intervened to speed up Egypt's agreement on a date for the maneuvers, especially after those Arab leaders realized that the United States would be using Egyptian forces, as well as some airports to help protect navigation in the Gulf.

But how does the "Bright Star" maneuver fit into the general Egyptian-U.S. military cooperation?

Information collected by *Al-Sha'b* over the last week has summed up this question in three points:

First: The joint program for Egyptian and U.S. forces during the year includes: the "Bright Star" maneuvers (July and August), which will be conducted every year, as well as three other maneuvers, to be conducted over the year as of October-November. This is part of an agreement signed recently when the U.S. 3d Army commander was in Cairo.

Second: U.S. military personnel are entitled to privileges similar to those given to Egyptian military personnel while on joint training missions in the United States. Under such privileges no U.S. military personnel are to be subject to inspection or questioning at any time, whether on arrival in Egypt or during their stay.

Third: The United States has agreed to postpone the sale of some advanced radar equipment requested by Egypt to an unspecified date because of differences over the method of agreeing on its value. Within this context, *Al-Sha'b* has learned that the U.S. Government has proposed that work begin immediately to set up three factories to manufacture spare parts for U.S. military equipment, and that these factories be assigned to three U.S. firms, of which General Motors and General Electric were mentioned.

This indicates that the United States intends to delay supplies of spare parts to Egypt while exerting pressure for the establishment of these factories inside Egypt.

Al-Sha'b has learned that the Egyptian side tried to ascertain what is involved in setting up these factories and the extent of their link to the Zionist entity, but this was not clarified by the Americans.

Al-Sha'b has learned that three military airports whose construction was interrupted in response to a request by Egyptian security quarters are currently being constructed with the cooperation of three U.S. firms. Work resumed after the military cooperation agreement was signed.

Government To Step Up Security for Turks

PM231621 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Jul 87 p 1

[Muhammad Amin report: 'Islamic Jihad Organization Plans To Attack Turkish Interests in Egypt"]

[Text] *Al-Wafd* has learned that the Turkish Embassy in Cairo has asked the Interior Ministry to take strict security measures to counter and abort attempts to carry out terrorist operations against and plans to launch attacks on Turkish interests. The Turkish Embassy had received information confirming that the Islamic Jihad organization was planning to attack Turkish interests throughout the world, especially in the Islamic states. The organization's goal is to take Turkish hostages to use in the bargaining for the release of the two Islamic Jihad members arrested in April with the knowledge of the Turkish authorities and now held in Ankara.

Al-Wafd has also learned that the Interior Ministry has taken all the necessary security precautions and has issued directives within the framework of the ministry's policy for combating terrorism. Public Security Director Major General Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Musa has asked the security directorates in the various governorates, the ports security and passport authorities, the General Directorate of Tourist and Antiquities security police, Cairo Airport, and Alexandria Port authorities to take all the necessary security measures to ensure safety of Turkish property and nationals living permanently or temporarily in Egypt or on a tourist or business visit to the country. It has also been decided, in coordination with the state security investigation department, to widen the circle of suspects from various nationalities in order to foil any attempt to carry out such designs.

Iranian Envoy Briefs Al-Qadhdhafi on Gulf, War

LD231729 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, July 23, IRNA — Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi reiterated his country's solidarity with the Islamic revolution. "Libya is always beside the Islamic Republic and Muslim nation of Iran," he added.

Col. Al-Qadhdhafi made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador in Tripoli Mohammad Kazem Khonsari here last night.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khonsari briefed the Libyan leader on the latest developments, including the success of Muslim combatants of Iran in the war fronts.

Khonsari termed the current tension in the Persian Gulf jointly plotted by Arab reactionaries and U.S. imperialism, as an attempt to save the Iraqi regime from sure downfall and prevent Iran's certain victory in the imposed war. "The Islamic Republic is ready to thwart the plot," he stressed.

In response, the Libyan leader lauded the Islamic revolution, declaring his country's strong support for the Islamic Republic's righteous stance in the Iraqi-imposed war. Libya's position is unchangeable, he emphasised.

Pointing to the Persian Gulf developments, Col. al-Qadhdhafi said presence of the U.S. fleet and other foreign forces in the Persian Gulf waters is hostile. The Islamic Republic's resistance against coordinated pressures recently imposed by the U.S. and her allies is a sacred defence and is the Iranian nation's right.

"We will be beside our Iranian brethren by all our means in case of any invasion on the part of the U.S.," he stressed.

Al-Qadhdhafi Address Relayed to Celebration

LD232033 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1742 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Address to the Egyptian people by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi marking the 35th anniversary of the 23 July Egyptian Revolution, relayed from the People's Hall in Tripoli on 23 July; video shows audience in the hall throughout the duration of the speech, and at no time is Al-Qadhdhafi seen on screen — live or recorded]

[Excerpts](?We are marking) the 35th anniversary of the 23 July Revolution, the mother revolution that was (?emulated) by the great Arab homeland's revolutionaries from the ocean to the Gulf — foremost among them, the 14 July revolutionaries who destroyed the hostile Baghdad Pact, removed the lackey monarchy in Iraq, and transformed Iraq into a progressive republic. [passage omitted on further significance of the Egyptian revolution and its influence on events in the Arab world]

The great Al-Fatih revolutionaries were students of 'Abd al-Nasir. They are the custodians of 'Abd al-Nasir's legacy; they are the ones entrusted before the world and the Arab nation by 'Abd al-Nasir in his famous speech in the Libyan Arab Republic immediately following the revolution's outbreak. He entrusted them with pan-Arabism and Arab unity.

We have not caught the disease of ingratitude from those who disavowed 'Abd al-Nasir, the Arab nation's historic pan-Arabist hero.He disavowed the role of the immortal 23 July Revolution that awakened nationalist feelings among the sons of the Arab nation and fueled the fires of resistance against British colonialism in the southern peninsula and the Gulf, and French colonialism in Algeria and Tunisia. I believe that the 23 July Revolution is the mother revolution and that 'Abd al-Nasir is the teacher and leader who taught revolution to the Arab nation's revolutionaries. No matter how much those who have caught the disease of ingratitude disavow him, we, the Great Fatih revolutionaries, will not disown 'Abd al-Nasir and the precepts that inspired us to revolt. The 23 July Revolution was the mother revolution; we will say no more. [passage omitted on the Libyan revolution's drawing inspiration from the Egyptian revolution]

Only the sick and the short-sighted seek to destroy the historical bridge linking the 23 July Revolution to the serious tenets of the Jamahiriyah theory — the Green Book. [passage omitted reviewing Al-Nasir's national charter]

The only Nasirites are the leaders of the great Al-Fatih revolution. The leaders of the great Al-Fatih revolution are the sole custodians of pan-Arabism and Arab unity, whose flag was raised by Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir and handed to the great Al-Fatih revolutionaries. The leaders of the great Al-Fatih revolution are Nasirite leaders and the trustees of pan-Arabism and Arab unity. This is what 'Abd al-Nasir told the whole world.

We are proud of our values and do not deny this nation's great men, who paved the way in the past until reaching the present. From the past we draw the nourishment that enables us to overcome the problems of the present and march to the future.

I do not believe that anyone can claim to be more of a Nasirite than I. No one can try to stand between me and Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. I am the closest person to Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, dead or alive. I am the trustee of his heritage. Morally, and from a revolutionary point of view, I am responsible for all Nasirites in the Arab homeland. I am the one who orders the closure of the shops that make Nasirism a kind of commodity for sale, like apples or hashish, and create a market for misrepresentation, naive or intentional. I am the one to baptize Nasirites and say that this one is a Nasirite. It is my job to evict the imposters and say this one is not a Nasirite, he is a fake, he has gone astray, he is a liar, a hypocrite, and a merchant.

No one is closer to 'Abd al-Nasir than I am. I am the one who lived with him, and understood him, and with him charted the course to unity and the future. I am the one whom 'Abd al-Nasir told of his plans to cross the canal in 1970, before he died; he did not tell Al-Sadat. He told me this first, then he told the Egyptian leadership in Al-Qubbah Palace that this was a secret that he had told Mu'ammar. The Egyptian leadership hears this secret for the first time — I prepared the Egyptian Army for the crossing in 1970. The Egyptian Army had been ready for the crossing since 1970, but Al-Sadat postponed it to arrange the Sinai agreement, the agreement of humiliation and shame. He

did this to prepare himself as a donkey to enter the stable, the dirty stable David. No one but the donkeys will remain in the stable.

Therefore, we strongly resist attempts to force the nation into the stable. This nation is not a nation of buffaloes, cows, or sheep. It is a nation of great Arabs. Their place is on the soil and under the sun, and they should deservedly occupy it. It is not inside the stable. Let the donkeys go to the stable, David's stable, and let them remain there shamelessly, eating American hay. Those with shame have died. Al-Nasir died, and he refused to enter the stable.

Even if the Egypt of today is different from the Egypt of 23 July and that of Al-Nasir, this great experience and the immortal battle of Al-Nasir, while raising the flag of pan-Arabism among the masses of the Arab nation, must have roots and embers glowing under the ashes, which will one day become a blazing fire. Under the ashes I can see the glow of fire, which is about to grow strong. The Egyptian revolution foretold this.

But let us look at Egypt now. It is an Arab country defeated in war under Al-Sadat. Defeat, with its bitter and humiliating conditions, was imposed upon it. Egypt did not accept the conditions of the stable David of its free will; it was forced to accept these conditions under the shadow of U.S. hegemony and of Israeli spears, spears that were produced in the United States. Were we to review the disasters facing the Arabs after Egypt's entry into stable David, we would see that Egypt was forced to go there. After all, none of these calamities would have been acceptable to Egypt had it not been vanquished. The stable David accords gave the Israeli enemy security along the southern front and a free hand on the northern front.

Among the results of the agreements were the 1982 siege of Beirut,the expulsion of the Palestinian resistance from Beirut and from Lebanon, and the shattering of the Palestinian resistance's unity — the collapse of the PLO from that time until today. Among the accords' other disastrous results were the massacres of Sabra and Shatila, which put mankind to shame, and the expansion of Zionist settlements in the occupied territories — an unprecedented expansion from the signing of the stable David accords; the transfer of the war to Palestine — in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, the Golan and all along the entire northern front, to Lebanon and Syria. The Israeli Army also enlarged the occupied zone right up to the Litani River — that was another result of these accords, as was the bitter camps war, which rent our hearts, and the annexation of Jerusalem, which, according to the claims of the Zionist states, has become an eternal capital. All this was accomplished under the stable David accords. The camps war was also fought under the shadow of the stable David accords.

The expulsion of the Palestinians and the establishment of Zionist settlements in place of Palestinian homes, plantations, and villages occurred in the shadow of stable David. The siege of Beirut and the expulsion of the Palestinian resistance, the destruction of the PLO, and the destruction of the Iraq's nuclear reactor took place in the shadow of stable David. The final annexation of the Golan, which they claim has become part of Israel, took place in the shadow of stable David. The attack on Hammam al-Shutt in Tunis also took place in the shadow of stable David. The direct U.S.-Atlanticist aggression against the Libyan people took place in the shadow of the stable David accords.

I say that all these serious, catastrophic, and tragic actions against the Arab nation took place in the shadow of stable David. After all, those who brag and heap scorn on the mentality of the nation have fooled the world public into thinking that the stable David accords were a peace agreement. They are calling it a march for peace and claim that the peace march has begun. Is this a peace march? Were the Sabra and Shatila massacres a peace march? Was the camps war a peace march? Was the Israeli air raid on Tunis a peace march? Was the Atlanticist attack with 170 planes under U.S. leadership a peace march? Was the destruction of Iraq's nuclear reactor, which was used for peaceful purposes — Iraq signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty — a peace march?

They have acquired nuclear weapons in the shadow of stable David accords. Is this the peace process? The annexation of Jerusalem and Golan —— is this the peace process? In line with that, Egypt was forced into a tomb. Its doors were thrown wide open to Zionism and its acts of destruction and sabotage on Egyptian soil. Egypt was forced to (?pay out) 2 million tons of oil a year to the enemy, vast quantities, tons of iron each year to the enemy, which become military strength to kill the Arabs. Egypt now bears the burden of heavy debts, which total at least 58 billion [currency unspecified] and a maximum of 95 billion [currency unspecified]. A million Egyptians have moved into cemeteries [word indistinct]. Two million Egyptians have lost their jobs and become unemployed. Egypt now imports 75 percent of its food and wheat from abroad, mainly from the United States.

As for military matters, Egypt has now totally submitted to the United States. Egyptian airspace is open to U.S. domination. AWACS aircraft have begun operating in Egyptian airspace to benefit U.S. surveillance. America's Rapid Deployment Force is now based on Egyptian soil. Egypt has also been forced to submit to annual U.S. military maneuvers. Egypt is forced to submit to these humiliating conditions because it was defeated in war under the leadership of the entombed Al-Sadat.

We should blame Egypt for its current sufferings, including the disgraceful humiliation and the freezing of all production capacities so that it will need crumbs from the United States and Israel. We should extend our hand to rescue it. However, Egypt must state frankly that it has foundered under colonization and sunk in debt. It must admit that it is oppressed by U.S. arrogance and joint imperialist-Zionist hegemony; that it has again lost the Suez Canal, through which U.S. nuclear-powered ships pass. This is against international law [words indistinct], but the Suez Canal has come under U.S. domination. The United States wants its nuclear-powered ships to pass through the canal, because it acts as if it owns it. It has thus cut the distance between Elat and the other ports of occupied Palestine, the Israeli ports in occupied Palestine. The Suez Canal has become an artery nourishing the Zionist entity which, when it eliminates the northern front, will reoccupy Sinai. The waters of the Nile will be diverted to the Sinai, which will be colonized by millions of Jews. They are being

prepared to emigrate to Sinai to populate it, as well as the Naqab Desert. The Israelis are waiting in the north to destroy resisting Syrian military forces. Their military objective is the destruction of these Syrian forces. They will then set off from the Euphrates to return to the Nile and establish their great state, which they declared years ago, from the Euphrates to the Nile. They will begin to divide Egypt into a Coptic state and an Islamic one, and into an Arab state and a non-Arab one.

They will partition Lebanon into small cantons — Druze, Maronite, Sunni, Shi'a, and so on. If they could, they would do so in Syria. And they might force — indeed, they are making preparations for recognition by King Husayn himself and his crown prince. [as heard] They are even working out who will govern the East Bank. This will enable them to expel the Palestinians from the West Bank to the East, thus putting an end to the state of Jordan. They will say that the Palestinians who were under Israeli occupation have been given the east bank of the Jordan. Initially, they would be under Israeli military governors. Indeed, they might even expel King Husayn and his family to the Arabian Peninsula, as his family was driven out by King 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud. All of this is to get us to start fighting one another and open the way to the Zionist state, which is preparing to bring 24 million Jews from all parts of the world to the Middle East. This will make the Jewish state the largest in the region, and one armed with nuclear weapons thanks to aid from the United States and Britain, to be precise.

It has imposed agreements on Egypt — cooperation accords in agriculture, culture, science, commerce, tourism, and air transport. A joint company known as Nefertiti was established as a subsidiary of Egyptian Arab Airlines. It now makes three flights a week between Egypt and the occupied territories. There is also cooperation in land and sea communications. ... gations, including youth groups, are exchanged back and for... Goods and other freight move freely. The normalization process goes on night and day at the highest levels. Anyone who claims the stable David accord is just ink on paper or is frozen is a liar, an unparalleled liar. Anyone who believes him is an idiot unrivaled in stupidity. Normalization between Egypt and the Zionist enemy is in depth and in full swing night and day. It has expanded even further than in the time of the entombed Al-Sadat. It is an opportunity for the Zionist enemy to penetrate, seize, and extend his tentacles into the length and breadth of Egypt as long as he can. It can reach anything in Egypt without resistance at this point.

We must prepare to liberate Egypt. We must ally ourselves with the Egyptian people and with Egypt's free men. We must say to them that we are with them; we must not insult them. Egypt's liberation is a pan-Arab task. It is an Arab duty and a debt to the Egyptian people, who have given a great deal and who have made many, many sacrifices. They have sacrificed for the pan-Arab issue and for Palestine. It was they who repelled the Tatars and the Mongols. The Arab nation owes the Egyptian people a favor and the Arab nation should repay it. Also, Egypt's liberation is a pan-Arab duty. The Arabs possess the right to prepare and liberate Egypt from U.S. and Israeli domination. Egypt today is not an independent state. It is a vanquished state, forced to say what it does not believe. It is compelled to do what it has been forced to do.

This is why banners of the 23 July Revolution will remain fluttering over the land of Al-Fatih, the custodian of the Nasirite will. Libya will remain the eternal well for beloved Egypt. We will remain the support on which one can lean in the Egyptian people's struggle to free themselves of this historic ordeal, which has been imposed on them. The revolution of the great Al-Fatih will continue to be the natural sponsor of Nasirism and the Nasirite banner. From Libyan soil, the voice of 'Abd al-Nasir is heard every night, resounding in every corner of the Arab homeland.

We will not turn this page but will keep it open before us. We will read it, see its example, and learn its lesson. Anyone who claims to be a Nasirite without being inside the leadership of the great Al-Fatih revolution — the custodian of 'Abd al-Nasir's will — is a liar. These are the leaders faithful to the 23 July Revolution and the revolutions inspired by the 23 July Revolution — the 14 July Revolution, the 26 September Revolution, and the revolution of the 1.5 million martyrs.

Hail to this historic and immortal day, which inspired the revolutionaries and which illuminated the road before this nation.

This is the revolution which taught us; this is the teacher who taught us the revolution. Forward, brothers in beloved Egypt. Forward, brothers in the wounded and dismembered greater Arab homeland. Forward, and the revolutionary struggle will continue until victory.

PFLP, Syrian Party Officials Arrive 23 Jul

LD231628 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Jul (JANA) — PFLP Secretary General Brother Ahmad Jibril and Brother Marwan Faris, leader of the Syrian National Party delegation, arrived in Tripoli today for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Bangladesh Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

LD211927 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1123 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Jul (JANA) — Brother Harun al-Rashid, the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry under secretary, and an accompanying delegation arrived this morning in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA at the airport, Brother Harun expressed his and the accompanying delegation's delight at visiting the Jamahiriyah and praised the existing relations between the two friendly countries. He pointed out that this visit falls within the framework of consolidating and deepening these relations and of continuing fruitful bilateral cooperation.

Implementation of Order on Moving Capital Urged
LD231356 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1134 GMT 23 Jul 87

["Pool" item by Dejan Lukic]

[Text] Tripoli, July 23 (TANJUG) — When Libyan leader Col. Al-Qadhdhafi, in agreement with local leaders, abolished Tripoli as the Libyan capital early this year, many thought the new capital would be the desert town of Hun at the Al-Jufrah Oasis, 700 kilometers from Tripoli.

Hun has not been proclaimed the new capital so far, but all government institutions, the governments and ministries have been instructed to move to the desert.

The Army staff has moved but not the ministers. Only their emmisaries, some furniture and some seals. [sentence as received]

The ministers go to the oasis by car or plane several times a week to sign documents which they bring with them from Tripoli.

The revolutionary committees' weekly *Al-Jamahiriyah* sharply criticized the Hun phenomenon in its latest issue. In conclusion the weekly says no-one, except the military staff, has fully translated Al-Qadhdhafi's decision into practice.

The weekly called [on] the Tripoli leadership to invade the government buildings in the city and ban the ministers from entering. In this way Libyans would no longer have to make their way to no less than three [as received] different towns to settle their affairs.

Despite the criticism and call for the government to leave Tripoli, Al-Jufrah has little chance of becoming the capital since its "inhabitants", few in number, are now frequently seen in Tripoli.

Tunisian Envoys Deliver Bourguiba Message to Taya

LD220138 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, this afternoon received a Tunisian delegation led by Amor Chedli, assistant secretary general of the Tunisian Socialist Destourian Party, minister director of the presidential office, and acting foreign minister. He also received Hedi Baccouche, member of the party's Political Bureau and minister of social affairs. [passage omitted]

Following their meeting, Mr Chedli told our correspondent Aissa Ould Ahmed Masmoud that he had conveyed to the head of state a message from his brother President Habib Bourguiba. [passage omitted]

PRC Vice Minister Begins Visit, Meets With Taya

AB191607 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya yesterday received Qi Huaiyuan, the PRC vice minister of foreign affairs. Following the meeting, the vice minister stated that their discussions centered on bilateral cooperation and [words indistinct].

Minister Ends Visit, Departs

AB191609 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Excerpt] PRC Vice Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan departed Nouakchott this morning following a 48-hour visit to Mauritania. He was seen off by Major Mohamed Lemine N'Diayane, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. Also in attendance were the director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation's Middle East and Asia Department, and the president of the Mauritania-China Friendship Association. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Meets With Mali Counterpart

AB181713 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Excerpt] The annual meeting between the Mauritanian and Malian interior ministers opened this morning in Nouakchott. The opening ceremony was marked by an exchange of speeches by Lieutenant Colonel Djibril Ould Abdellahi, member of the CMSN and minister of interior, information, posts, and telecommunications, and Lieutenant Colonel Abdourahmane Maiga, the Malian minister of territorial administration and grassroot development [interior]. [passage omitted]

Border Talks Conclude

AB221725 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Excerpt] The Malian-Mauritanian interministerial meeting ended in Nouakchott yesterday. Colonel Abdourhamane Maiga, minister of territorial administration and basic development, who led a large Malian delegation to that meeting to strengthen our good-neighborly relations, returned to Bamako this morning. Ouatara Yakassai, who covered that meeting, now briefs us on the outcome:

[Begin recording] The frank spirit that prevailed during the 4-day deliberations enabled both sides to achieve highly positive results. Thus, within the legal framework of the 16 February 1962 treaty, the meeting enabled the two countries to adopt a draft schedule whose implementation will lead to finding a lasting solution to demarcating the common border between our two countries. During the talks, experts from both nations stressed the need for making a judicious choice of border administrative officials. The efficiency of these officials, to some extent, determines the success of the entire border demarcation strategy. They also agreed that it is the duty of all border administrative officials to realize the magnitude and importance of their role. These officials must therefore do everything to ensure that our peaceful populations live in perfect understanding. [passage omitted] [end recording]

King Hassan Greets Reagan on Treaty Anniversary

LD232244 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] In a message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, His Majesty King Hassan II expressed his conviction that Morocco and the United States could contribute to finding just and peaceful solutions to current international issues. Here is the text of the royal message:

Today, the United States and Morocco celebrate the 200th anniversary of the peace and friendship treaty between them. The message that you personally sent to us and to the Moroccan people on this occasion had a beneficial effect upon us. Your message's kind words gave our people another opportunity to appreciate the amicable and friendly feelings which bind us.

There are two factors which you have personally mentioned on this happy occasion that deserve appreciation. The Moroccan-U.S. treaty, which was ratified by the U.S. Congress on 18 July 1987 [as heard], remains the oldest continuous peace and friendship treaty in U.S. history. The U.S. Constitution, whose 200th anniversary you also commemorate, today remains the oldest working legal and moral framework for the life of a nation. These two factors, which were linked by fate, definitely constitute the most sincere expression of the great responsibility shouldered by the leaders of our two nations in their history. These factors also express our joint loyalty to the friendship that binds us and to its consequences.

We are confident, as we place our current ties within this loyalty and spirit of commitment, that the United States and Morocco cannot but consolidate their historic ties and continue to work together to find just and peaceful solutions to the world's numerous problems.

As we express our feelings of appreciation and friendship, which are also the feelings of our people toward Americans, we hope, Mr President, our great friend, that you will accept our highest appreciation.

Prime Minister Receives Iraqi Envoy 23 Jul

LD231741 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] By order of His Majesty King Hassan II, Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki today received Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahab al-Shaykhli, the minister of higher education and scientific research. Al-Shaykhli conveyed to him a verbal message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn for his brother His Majesty King Hassan II.

The Iraqi envoy had arrived in Sale, Rabat airport earlier today, where he was welcomed by Minister of Cultural Affairs Mohamed Benaissa, the director of the Arab countries section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and the Iraqi ambassador to Rabat.

Prime Minister Receives Visiting Chinese Official

LD211827 Rabat MAP in English 1211 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Rabat, July 21 (MAP) — Moroccan Premier Azeddine Laraki received here Monday [20 July] visiting Chinese Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Qi Huaiyuan and accompanying party.

The two sides hailed friendship and cooperation links between the two countries and agreed to step up efforts in order to further boost relations between Morocco and China.

Various aspects of bilateral cooperation as well as common interest questions and major international issues were addressed.

The same issues were also at the center of talks between the Chinese official and Ahmed Cherkaoui, secretary of state to foreign affairs.

PRC Deputy Minister Departs

LD231622 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] The PRC deputy foreign minister departed Morocco this morning following the end of a 4-day official visit to the Kingdom. During his visit, he held talks with Moroccan officials on bilateral relations and ways to strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Striking Radio, TV Workers End Protest 22 Jul

JN221540 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Jul (SUNA) — The unions representing employees working for the National Radio and Television Corporation have announced the end of their strike and their return to work as of 1700 today. The unions have asked employees to return to their jobs, reiterating their insistence that their demands be met and that they possess the right to strike.

A statement issued by the unions said that this decision was made following a meeting with the minister of culture and information and the start of efforts by a mediation committee, which will meet with the unions on 25 July. This meeting will follow a session between the minister and the employees. The security authorities had prohibited employees from entering the National Radio and Television Corporation's premises.

Ma'mun Sanadah, minister of culture and information, had appealed to radio and television employees to return to their jobs following their strike in two of the corporation's facilities on 20 July. The minister also issued a statement in which he reviewed the employees' demands and the steps taken to improve their working conditions. The minister also spoke of the legal means of dialogue between employer and employees, as well as the procedures that must be followed prior to staging any strike. These procedures, the minister said, are necessary to complete legal formalities before any strike is staged. The minister also reiterated his interest in issues relating to the radio and television employees' employment conditions and to improving these conditions. Sanadah added that the government, which came into existence through free and direct elections, is aware of its commitment to deal with issues raised in the employees' memorandum. This memorandum calls for the removal of the radio and television corporation's director general and of a number of symbols of the former regime.

Constituent Assembly Speaker Reportedly Resigns

JN231128 Khartoum SUNA in English
1035 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, Jul 23 SUNA — The daily paper *Al-Sudani* reported today that the speaker of the Constituent Assembly Parliament Professor Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil has resigned from his post in the Assembly and the Al-Ummah Party. The paper said Khalil has submitted his resignation to the Al-Ummah Party chairman Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in London recently but it did not mention the reasons behind the resignation and whether Al-Mahdi accepted it or not.

Radio SPLA Reports Capture of Governmental Posts

Amadi Said Captured 7 Jul

EA201814 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English
1300 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Following the occupation of Lui town by the SPLA forces early this month, the SPLA forces have moved on to Amadi town, 4 miles away from Lui, and occupied it on 7 July 1987. Correspondent says that the operation which led to the capture of Amadi was commanded by Captain Maker (Thiong Mal) of Hadid Battalion under the overall command of Major James Wani Igga, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command and zonal commander for Central Equatoria. [passage omitted]

Southern Police Force Overrun

EA210329 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English
1300 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Shakush — Task Force No 1, under direct command of Major John Kong Nyon and under the overall command of Major James Wani Igga, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command and zonal commander for Central Equatoria, overran Torit police force 48 miles from Yei Town on 12th July 1987.

Correspondent traveling with the Shakush Task Force says that the attack, which was launched in the late hours of the night, totally took the enemy by surprise. One Land Rover No EE3875 and a power generator were seized in good working conditions. More details of the capture of Torit will be brought to you in a later broadcast as soon as they are available.

Torit Successes Claimed

LD222052 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English
1300 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Units from the combined SPLA forces of Tingili, Mukhshasha, Tafeng, Takhian, and Sunki, under the overall command ofLieutenant Colonel Glario Modi Hurinyang, the zonal commander for the eastern bank of Eastern Equatoria, have been in action against enemy forces in Torit.

According to a Radio SPLA correspondent in Eastern Equatoria, six enemy soldiers including Sergeant (Caesar Otuor) were killed and three others injured on 5 July 1987, during a simultaneous 3-hour shelling of three separate enemy locations by the SPLA. Seven buildings were also destroyed by fire. [passage omitted]

INTER-GULF AFFAIRS

U.S.-Flagged Tanker Hits Mine; No Casualties

JN240924 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] The latest reports received from the Gulf region say that a mine exploded under the U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti oil tanker *Bridgeton* this morning. It was sailing with another Kuwaiti oil tanker, the *Gas Prince*, toward Kuwaiti shores under U.S. military escort.

U.S. Navy sources said the mine went off at about 0700 local time today when the tanker was 190 km southeast of Kuwait. The same sources added that the explosion caused no casualties and that the tanker's condition is such that it can continue sailing toward Kuwait.

'Serious Damage' Reported

TA240915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] A strong explosion occurred this morning on one of the oil tankers sailing under the U.S. flag in the Persian Gulf. The explosion hit the tanker *Bridgeton*. Apparently there are no casualties, but the left side of the tanker suffered serious damage. The source of the explosion was apparently a naval mine. As a result of the explosion, the progress of the tanker convoy accompanied by U.S. warships has been disrupted.

KUWAIT

AL-QABAS Notes Significance of UN Resolution

JN231844 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 22 Jul 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The World Has Had Its Say"]

[Text] The UN Security Council resolution calling for an end to the war between Iraq and Iran deserves more than the brief pause that we normally give to UN resolutions.

For the first time in history, the Security Council has warned two warring countries that it will resort to Chapter 7 of the UN Charter to impose sanctions on any side failing to carry out the mandatory resolution.

Such a threat reflects a unanimous international desire to transfer the Gulf conflict from the battlefront to the negotiating table. It also reflects a common international concern about the serious consequences of the continuation of the war.

The importance of the resolution lies in the world concensus over what is taking place in the Gulf, especially in the fact that for the first time in history, the five major powers have reached a clear basis to resolve a hot issue.

Despite the clash of interests, strategies, and ideologies, the major powers — and especially the two superpowers, the United States and the USSR — have sensed the looming disaster if nothing is done to achieve a comprehensive peace settlement.

While we understand that the Security Council lacks the practical means to carry out its wish, the issuance of this historic resolution places before Iraq and Iran their responsibility, which is either war or peace.

The council has also drawn the world nations' attention to their responsibility. These nations remained indifferent for 7 long years, until the war sparks began threatening them through the attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf, which is a vital waterway for the oil trade.

While UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar was holding consultations to sound out Iraq and Iran on the Security Council resolution, the initial Iraqi response was positive while the Iranian one was negative. Nevertheless, now that the world has had its say, it is hoped that Iran will not make any hasty decisions. The situation does not tolerate emotionalism or maneuvering. What is needed is to defuse the powder keg. Perez de Cuellar must receive cooperation in his efforts to implement the provisions of the resolution and declare a truce that will help him in his difficult mission.

If Iran chooses rejection and escalation, it will only further complicate the situation and involve the fleets of the superpowers in a very serious conflict. There will be no going back then, and no time for regret.

SAUDI ARABIA

Iran Organizes 'Massive Unity Rally' in Medina

LD231825 Tehran IRNA in English 1756 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Medina, S. Arabia, July 23, IRNA — Iranian Muslims inspired by Islamic teachings share the joys and sorrows of the Muslim world and consequently feel responsible for defending rights of other Muslims, said head of Iranian hajj pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi here this morning.

Speaking to a group of Indians from Kashmir State, Karrubi cautioned the Muslim world against plots of the enemies of Islam to sow discord among them. He also called on Indian Muslims to strengthen their brotherhood and solidarity with the rest of the ummah in order to ward off enemy mischiefs.

Karrubi pinpointed the importance of tackling socio-political problems of the Muslim world during the hajj pilgrimage.

In response, one of the visitors said that Indian Muslims condemned the Iraqi regime for its aggression on Iran and deemed it necessary for the Iranian nation to continue its holy defence.

He also lauded the Islamic Republic for its strong denunciation of the massacre of Indian Muslims by Hindu extremists in Meerut. Iran's firm stand helped lessen the catastrophe, he added.

In another report, a Ghanaian hajj pilgrim, Abdulbashir Mohammad told IRNA here today that his Muslim compatriots are sympathizers of the Islamic revolution.

He said that the war the Iraqi regime initiated was in fact imposed on the whole Muslim world, noting that it should be continued until an ultimate Iranian victory.

Abdulbashir Mohammad, the dean of a theological school in Ghana, said that he along with 40 other Ghanaian hajj pilgrims had participated in a massive unity rally organized by the Islamic Republic here Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabian dailies continued to ignore the massive unity rally in Medina, blacking out any reports on it.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Zayid Receives Iraqi Minister, Husayn Message

JN231131 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic
0930 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, received a verbal message from his brother, His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, on the latest developments in the region and relations between the two fraternal countries. This came during a meeting his highness held with Iraqi Interior Minister Sa'dun Shakir in Al-Wakbah today. His highness was also briefed on Iraq's stand on the recent Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war. The meeting was attended by His Excellency Major General Hammuda ibn 'Ali, minister of state for internal affairs; Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and His Excellency Taha Rajab 'Uraymi, Iraqi ambassador to the UAE.

AL-ITTIHAD Wants Implementation of UN Resolution

JN231650 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
21 Jul 87 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] Finally, after 7 years, the UN Security Council yesterday unanimously issued a resolution "ordering" an immediate halt to the Iraq-Iran war. We, as well as all peace-loving regional and international forces hoping for security and stability, hope that this resolution will be the beginning of the end of this grueling war — with all its destructive dimensions, threats to international peace, and the anxiety it has caused about peaceful coexistence among the peoples of this region.

It is certain that all the states that approved this resolution realize that its issuance is a beginning and not an end, and that this beginning must be followed by steps to implement this balanced resolution and all its articles. It is also certain that the next necessary step is a cease-fire, which could open the door to a settlement, meeting the two parties' just demands.

This resolution is the outcome of intensive international contacts that began at the end of last year or the beginning of this year, when Soviet and U.S. delegates met and announced that they had agreed on a plan to halt the Iraq-Iran war. This means that preparation for this resolution has taken about 6 months. We hope that the next step — a cease-fire — will not take as long. We also hope that the two concerned parties will welcome the efforts of the UN secretary general, who yesterday announced that he will immediately begin his contacts to implement the Security Council resolution.

For the sake of this region's security and stability, for the good of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples, and for the sake of world peace, we hope the Security Council resolution will be implemented today, not tomorrow.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Final Session of Unity Talks With PDRY Held

EA231722 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Excerpt] The final session of talks between delegations of the two parts of the homeland was held this morning at 1100 in Sanaa under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland.

At the beginning of the session, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid expressed his delegation's happiness over this visit to the northern part of the homeland, which will (?overcome) the obstacles that were set up in the period after the events of the 13 January conspiracy. He said the Yemeni unity issue called for open discussions, sincere intentions, and a democratic spirit. He then stressed the importance of contacts between the leaderships of the two parts of the homeland for solving and eliminating all problems. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid also pointed out [words indistinct] that those wanting to return may do so. He called on them to participate in the construction of the homeland.

Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih also spoke. He described the meeting as a fraternal one in which a spirit of frankness and (?sincerity) prevailed. [Words indistinct] we dealt with local, regional, and international issues. He explained that the Yemeni people are a people of united principles, which they defended and made sacrifices for. He stressed the need for the continuation of unity meetings. He emphasized that relations between the leadership of the two parts will be based on brotherhood and the achievement of the objectives of the national revolution. He emphasized that the meeting was governed by a spirit of brotherhood, contrary to what the enemies of our Yemeni people expected. [passage omitted]

President Addresses Armed Forces on UN Resolution

JN231301 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jul 87

["Text" of President Saddam Husayn's message to the Iraqi Armed Forces on recent UN Security Council resolution on the Gulf war — date, place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O men of our heroic Armed Forces — commanders and soldiers of various ranks, classes, and corps. Greetings. Regardless of the ability and skillfulness of politics and related diplomatic activities, politics will continue to be unable to safeguard the homeland against outside armed aggression. Nor will politics be able to achieve the slogans of peace in a manner guaranteeing our rights and interests if not supported in a manner that bolsters the will of steadfastness. O men, you are the arms and strong back of politics. Because you have demonstrated this, politics has done its job. UN Security Council Resolution No 598, adopted on 20 July 1987, came to thwart the hopes of the evildoers in Iran and their allies, who had sought aggressive and illegal gains at the expense of great Iraq.

You and the great Iraqi people will recall the dreams and covetous ambitions of the failures in Tehran prior to the year they called the year of decisiveness. You will also recall how numerous regional and international circles actively conspired with Iran and Zionism against Iraq, the revolution, and the Armed Forces. However, your steadfastness and willingness to fight, your belief in your cause, your patience, and the blood of our martyrs that was copiously shed on Iraq's pure soil were among the main factors that imposed respect for Iraq, its policy, and its diplomatic activity on the international community. Regardless of the Security Council resolution, peace can only be attained through constant alert and caution, readiness for sacrifice, providing the right conditions for building the Armed Forces and enabling them to carry out their duties, and demonstrating continued patience and readiness to confront aggression.

The Security Council's call for a cease-fire, withdrawal to recognized international borders, and an immediate comprehensive exchange of POW's, in addition to other conditions, will not materialize unless your strength continues to grow and your vigilance continues to increase. The matters called for by the Security Council also will not materialize unless the Iranian enemy believes he is losing the present and the future should he continue his intransigence and reject the logic and bases of peace.

Many of the hostile circles will aid him in renouncing some of his obligations to the resolution. Our brave fighters should continue with their daily duties as if the war still continues, until we possess tangible proof that the war has ended. Every soldier should remain in his position and continue to carry out his assignment. He should also follow the orders given to him to carry out his duties, assert our rights on our land, airspace, and marine waters, and defend them against attempts to undermine them until the day comes when we achieve a comprehensive and just peace, God willing. I wish you success and further victories. God is great. Ignominy to the defeated.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn.

National Assembly Speaker on UN Resolution

JN231542 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA) — The Iraqi National Assembly has called on the Arab and world parliaments to continue their good offices at the national, regional, and international levels to implement the UN Security Council's resolution as quickly as possible. This is also to foil any side's procrastination in fully implementing this resolution. These points were contained in a message Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker, addressed to the heads of the Arab and world parliaments following the National Assembly's extraordinary session yesterday.

The National Assembly's speaker pointed out that Iraq — its people and government, under President Saddam Husayn — has always stressed its belief in a just and comprehensive peace, in ending all forms of hostilities and war, and in the principle of noninterference in others' domestic affairs. He stated that Iraq embodied these beliefs in its five peace principles issued on 2 August 1986. He added that Iraq has agreed with all resolutions passed by the UN Security Council, the Nonaligned Movement, and the ICO on the Iraq-Iran conflict. He also noted that Iraq has also sincerely cooperated with peaceful regional and international efforts while Iran has rejected all these resolutions and peaceful efforts, and insisted on continuing the war to increase the human and material losses, and to disrupt the Arab Gulf's security and stability as well as world peace.

In his message, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi noted: Out of its national and humanitarian responsibilities, the National Assembly has welcomed UN Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987 and recommended that the Iraqi Government accept and implement it with goodwill and according to a timetable to reach a comprehensive, just, and honorable solution to the dispute.

Hammadi added: The Iraqi National Assembly's approval of the resolution, and Iraq's readiness to cooperate with the UN secretary general and to consult and coordinate with him to create the most favorable circumstances for implementing the Security Council resolution, is a continuation of the responsible, positive peaceful course felt in our relations with others and at pan-Arab, regional, and international conferences and seminars. These were aimed at exerting efforts to mobilize world public opinion in the interest of achieving a just peace and ending the war and all its catastrophes, destruction, and the wasting of opportunities for progress and development.

In his message, Dr Hammadi expressed the hope that the Arab and world parliaments' good offices will continue on the national, regional, and international levels to implement the UN Security Council resolution as soon as possible. He called on these parliaments to urge their governments and the UN Security Council memebr states to implement chapter 7 of the UN Charter, on which the resolution was based, and to impose sanctions on Iran if it refuses to implement this resolution.

Foreign Minister 'Aziz Departs for New York

JN231639 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, departed for New York today. He will convey to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Iraq's official stand concerning UN Security Council Resolution No 598, adopted on 20 July.

Communique No 2,754 Details Operations 22-23 Jul

JN231628 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,754 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 July 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces inflicted further losses on the enemy through their combat activities. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. The aircraft of our heroic Air Force today carried out 62 combat missions against the scoundrels assembly areas, positions, and equipment, inflicting heavy losses on them. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, protected by God.

2. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah fired at enemy positions opposite them. They destroyed an SPG-9 gun, a vehicle, a gun emplacement, and three assorted positions, killing one of the scoundrels.

3. Two vehicles, a 60-mm mortar, an observation post, and two ammunition dumps were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. One of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan dealt an effective blow to an enemy group, killing five soldiers, wounding others, and destroying several infantry positions.

5. One enemy soldier was killed, an ammunition dump was detonated, and several enemy positions were set afire in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. An enemy vehicle and an observation post were destroyed and a soldier was killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

7. Using long-range artillery, the tyrant Khomeyniite clique shelled residential areas in the cities of Basra and Halabjah. The enemy's shelling wounded one civilian in the city of Basra and five others in Halabjah. May God grant a speedy recovery to our wounded.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 July 1987

Anti-Iranian Mojahedin-e Baluchestan Actions Noted

JN231518 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Paris, July 23, INA — The opposition Iranian movement Mojahedin-e Baluchestan carried out a series of military operations against Khomeyni guards throughout the eastern-southern Province of Baluchestan.

In a statement released here today the movement said that its combatants attacked, early instant [as received] Khomeyni guards unit in Kheyrabad region, killing nine of the unit personnel and wounding several others.

On 5th July another group ambushed a Khomeyni guards convoy while travelling between Paye Kuh and Jam Khaneh, killing eight of them, the statement said.

On June 14 last, a group of Baluchestan movement occupied the electric power station of Koshteh town, situated between Khash and Sarvan, killing four of its guards and wounding several others, then destroyed the station before withdrawal.

On May 2 last, a detachment of Mojahedin-e Baluchestan attacked a Khomeyni guards center in Jalq, killing the head of the centre, eight of Khomeyni guards and wounding several others.

The statement further said that on June 2 last a group of the Mojahedin-e blocked the main road leading to Jalq then ambushed a Khomeyni guards patrol, killing three of its personnel and seized their weapons.

On May 19, another group of the Mojahedin-e Baluchestan attacked a Khomeyni guards patrol in the area of Saravan, killing three of them and wounding five others.

On May 22, a detachment of the Mojahedin-e attacked and then set ablaze the post office centre in Saravan in Arab Shah area.

In a separate attack, the statement said, Mojahedin-e Baluchestan completely destroyed a Khomeyni guards agricultural center in Irandegan area on March 20.

USSR Warns Against Jericho Missile Development

TA231825 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] The Soviet Union this evening issued the gravest possible announcement about Israel against the background of reports on the testing of an advanced model of the Israeli-made Jericho missile. The Soviet Union has announced that the development of an advanced model of the Jericho missile would be regarded as a challenge and a threat to the Soviet Union.

A Radio Moscow broadcast in Hebrew says that Israel's leaders should think twice about the implications of developing a missile that could hit Soviet territory. The broadcast contains a warning to Israel that Israel will not have a monopoly for long on the introduction of nuclear weapons into the Middle East. The Soviet commentator said that Israel is turning itself into part of the nuclear confrontation between the powers. The report was sent to us by our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus.

U.S. Said Behind Development

TA231844 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] We now have an update on the Soviet warning about the Jericho missile. In a commentary broadcast this evening, Radio Moscow said that the United States is in fact behind Israel's being equipped with a medium-range nuclear missile. At a time when the United States is negotiating with Moscow over disarming the nuclear missiles, it is turning its allies, such as Germany in Europe and Israel in the Asian region, into elements with nuclear missiles. This is what is said in this evening's Radio Moscow commentary.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that Radio Moscow warns, as it phrases it, against the destructive results this could have, primarily for Israel, with the spread of the nuclear arms race in the Middle East. The Soviet radio also notes that it was impossible to keep the missile's existence secret after Israel tested it in the Mediterranean.

HA'ARETZ Denies USSR Charge

TA241014 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jul 87 pp A1, A11

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Israel Does Not Have Its Eye on Targets in the Soviet Union"]

[Text] Israel does not under any circumstances have an eye on targets in southern Soviet Union, and the attribution of such an intention to Israel has no basis. This was the reaction of authoritative sources last night to the Radio Moscow claim that the development of an Israeli long-range missile with a nuclear warhead constitutes a threat to the Soviet Union.

This is not the first time that Moscow has reminded Israel in a warning language that its actions pose a threat in view of the proximity of the USSR's southern borders. This time the warning specifically relates to a certain weapons system, a missile with a nuclear warhead and a range of 1,500 km or more which, according to the latest publications in the West, Israel is engaged in developing. If these publications are correct, it is clear that this missile is intended for those Arab capitals that have in the past been accustomed to sending expeditionary forces against Israel and that today as well are building up their military strength for the possibility of intervention in a war against Israel without any fear that their capitals will be exposed to an Israeli response.

The fact that several of these capitals are located within a range equal to the distance of the Soviet Union's southernmost borders does not mean that Israel has an eye on a Soviet target. Under no circumstances is Israel building up its military strength against the Soviet Union. Its strategic view is basically defensive. If the report that Israel is going to equip itself with such a missile is true, then it is clear that this does not even have the threat inherent in the French ballistic missiles that are aimed at targets inside Russia as part of France's independent deterrent system.

The publication in the West of the testing of the new Jericho missile, in contrast to previous publications about these missiles and their deployment, mentioned a new fact for the first time; namely, that Israel is conducting its tests in the Mediterranean and that the latest test was aimed at achieving a range of some 1,500 km. It should be noted that such tests are almost impossible to conceal. The superpowers' satellite systems easily spot any ballistic missile firing, even if the reference is to tactical-range missiles. According to the latest publication, the reference is to an Israeli missile with a longer range than any published about Israel in the past. This is what undoubtedly sparked off the angry Russian reaction.

'Secret Contacts' Under Way for Peres Moscow Visit

TA240845 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 24 Jul 87 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' office is maintaining secret contacts with Soviet elements in order to examine the possibility of a visit by Foreign Minister Peres to Moscow this very year. Peres intends to discuss with Kremlin leaders the Soviet Union's participation in the international conference and the renewal of diplomatic relations with Israel. The Russians are anxious about the visit because of reactions from the PLO and Arab countries.

Another possibility is a meeting between Peres and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in New York in September. Gorbachev is scheduled to arrive in the city for the UN General Assembly deliberations. In any event, the Soviets are planning a meeting between Peres and Foreign Affairs Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at that time.

The Soviets recently have signaled that they are interested in resuming contacts with Israel at a higher level. A senior Foreign Ministry official has reported that during the next few months there may be new developments in relations with the Soviets and that the consular delegation is a first step in this direction. He said that there is talk of Peres and others meeting with senior

Soviet figures. The 'Ezer Weizman visit [to Moscow] may also be possible.

Soviet Delegation Willing To Meet With Politicians

TA231229 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Jul 87 p A2

[Report by Refa'el Mann and Arye Bender]

[Text] The heads of the Soviet consular delegation made it clear to Israeli officials that they would respond in the affirmative to an invitation to meet with figures in the political echelon or with senior Foreign Ministry personnel.

The Soviet representatives explained that as guests they could not initiate such meetings, but would accept an invitation if it came from their Israeli hosts.

According to political sources, no decision has yet been reached on whether political figures will meet with members of the delegation. The tendency until now has been to wait for the Soviets to initiate such meetings.

According to information reaching Jerusalem, delegation head Yevgeniy Antipov left Israel briefly, apparently to report to Moscow via the Soviet Embassy's liaison unit in Cyprus.

It is still not known whether two additional Soviet diplomats, who had received entry visas along with the other members of the delegation, will come to Israel. The two are attache (Aleksandr Shusko) and Third Secretary Sergey Viktorovich Isakov.

The Justice Ministry has yet to decide whether to allow the delegation members to visit all the sites they have requested which fall under the jurisdiction of the administrator general.

Sources have reported that people in the Justice Ministry have reservations about the delegation visiting several places whose ownership is a topic of dispute between Israel and the Soviet Union.

A senior delegation from the Russian Church in the Soviet Union will arrive in Israel on Sunday for a week-long visit.

Heading the delegation will be the No 2 man in the Red Russian Church, Metropolitan Filaret. He is the head of the Foreign Affairs Department of Moscow's Russian Orthodox Patriarchate and also leads the church in Minsk and in Belorussia. Three senior clergymen will accompany him, including Bishop Sarafin, who headed the Russian Church religious delegation to Israel in the 1970's, and two civilians.

The Soviet delegation will place a wreath at the Yad Vashem memorial in memory of the victims of the holocaust. They will also meet with the president, the religious affairs minister, and the mayor of Jerusalem.

'Abd al-Majid Receives Palestinian Memorandum

TA240715 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Jul 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Greer Fay Gashman]

[Text] Herzilyya — Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday urged visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to restore normal ties between his government and the PLO.

The twelve-member group, which included a majority of PLO supporters, met with 'Abd al-Majid at the residence of Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Muhammad Basyuni. It was the first collective meeting between PLO supporters from the territories and an Egyptian minister since the signing of the Camp David accords.

'Abd al-Majid also met yesterday with Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir and Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, before flying back to Egypt. Sharir deplored the lack of balance in tourism between Israel and Egypt, and said there could be no real peace until the imbalance was rectified. Rabin reportedly briefed 'Abd al-Majid on the security situation in the territories.

Speaking to reporters at Ben-Gurion Airport, 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt would "continue to work for the international (Middle East peace) conference as if it were to be convened tomorrow." He said that while there were differences of opinion in Israel on the international conference, he remained cautiously optimistic about prospects for such a parley.

On arrival in Cairo, 'Abd al-Majid said "1987 must not pass without starting meetings of the conference."

In their meeting with 'Abd al-Majid, the Palestinians submitted a memorandum which called for a mending of Egyptian-PLO relations and asserted that the PLO was the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians. The document marked a rare consensus among both supporters of the PLO and backers of Jordan.

The group included *Al-Fajr* editor Hanna Sinyurah and Gaza lawyer Fayiz Abu Rahmah, both of whom have been named in the past to a proposed Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating team. Other participants included deposed Gaza mayor Rashad al-Shawwa, Hikmat al-Masri of Nabulus, a deputy speaker of the Jordanian senate, Bethlehem mayor Ilyas Frayj, deposed Hebron mayor Mustafa al-Natshah, and Gaza publisher and writer Zuhayr al-Rayyis.

Abu Rahmah said the Palestinians pressed 'Abd al-Majid "to reconstruct the relationship between the PLO and Egypt." Restoration of "the special Palestinian-Egyptian relations would be a powerful push toward building an Arab diplomatic strategy aimed at achieving a just peace," the memorandum said.

'Abd al-Majid said that while Egypt had been greatly angered by the PLO's decision in April to limit ties with Cairo, he hoped good relations would be restored, Abu Rahmah reported. The Egyptian Government closed PLO offices in Cairo following the

anti-Egyptian resolution adopted by the Palestine National Council in Algiers.

The memorandum to 'Abd al-Majid called for an international Middle East peace conference with PLO representation, and said UN Resolution 242 was an "inadequate basis" for resolving the Middle East conflict, because they ignored Palestinian rights to self determination and a state.

'Abd al-Rahmah responded that the PLO should be invited to an international conference Abu Rahmah said.

The Palestinians urged 'Abd al-Majid to press Israel to allow direct exports of agricultural products, including citrus fruits, from the territories to Europe. The European Community has recently granted preferential status to such imports from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but Israel has insisted such goods be shipped through its agricultural marketing boards. The group also requested more residence permits for Palestinians in Egypt, admittance of one-thousand Palestinian students from the territories a year to Egyptian universities, and opening the Al-'Arish Sinai crossing point to Palestinians from the territories.

'Abd al-Majid reported that he had raised with Israeli leaders the need to improve the quality of life in the territories, and had also protested against the planned Israeli water-drilling project near Bethlehem.

Sharir, at his meeting with 'Abd al-Majid, deplored the wide gap in tourist statistics between the two countries and noted that Egypt is doing nothing to close that gap. In 1985, 27,000 Israelis visited Egypt; whereas only 5,203 Egyptians came to Israel. Last year the Israeli figure went up to 33,000 but the increase in Egyptian tourists was minimal, rising only to 5,598.

The two ministers also discussed the contentious issue of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which has long been the subject of dispute between the Copts and the Ethiopians, who are presently the custodians. The tendency among Egyptian Copts is to boycott Israel until the problem is resolved. Sharir said that while they stay away, they cannot hope for a solution. If they came in large numbers, he suggested, they might be able to effect change.

Midday Press Assesses 'Abd al-Majid Visit

TA230855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] The three midday newspapers deal with the implications of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's visit to Israel. *Hadashot* believes that the Egyptian minister succeeded in restoring the public's consciousness of the peace with Egypt and made it clear that with political daring peace is possible. Now, the paper writes, the prime minister has a one-time chance to acknowledge the Egyptian success.

According to *Ma'ariv*, in spite of the differences of opinion remaining in the talks with 'Abd al-Majid, the most pronounced conclusion is that the more frequently such visits by Egyptians to Israel and Israelis to Egypt take place, the better.

Yedi'ot Aharonot writes that if the visit was intended to demonstrate that Cairo is on the same wavelength as the Israeli foreign minister, the visit was more than successful. However, if the visit was intended to convince the prime minister of the essentialness of convening an international conference, it definitely failed. The outcome is that even after the visit, the draw continues.

Egyptian Envoy Rejects Criticism Over Reception

TA231709 Jerusalem Domestic Service Hebrew
1700 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni has rejected claims that he is in the habit of inviting only Arab figures to the annual reception marking the anniversary of the Egyptian revolution. Mr Basyuni told our correspondent Bassam Jabir that his residence is open this evening to anyone who wishes to come and congratulate him on Egypt's holiday. The ambassador stressed that more and more Israelis come to the reception every year, thus proving the support for peace in the region.

Shamir Remarks at Reception

TA240446 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0400 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Excerpt] The prime minister is satisfied with the state of relations between Israel and Egypt. He is also pleased with the Egyptian foreign minister's visit to Israel and believes every visit of this type can improve bilateral ties. Mr Shamir made these remarks to our correspondent Bassam Jabir at a lavish reception in Herzliyya in honor of Egypt's Revolution Day. Also attending the colorful event were the vice prime minister, other ministers, Knesset members, and notables from the territories — all in all some 3,500 guests. [passage omitted]

Direct Defense Phone Link With Egypt Reestablished

TA230708 Tel Aviv Educational Television
in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] One of the immediate results of 'Abd al-Majid's visit to Israel is the reestablishment of the direct telephone line between the two countries' defense ministers. The line had been severed for the past 5 years. Defense Minister Rabin already held his first conversation with his counterpart in Cairo this morning.

Shamir Addresses Current Issues in Phone-in Program

TA231802 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1505 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Phone-in program with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir moderated by Mikha Friedman — live]

[Excerpts] [Question] I would like to ask the prime minister how long this state of affairs, in which the Israeli Government seems to have two heads, will last. At least as far as the international

conference is concerned, Mr Peres and the Alignment ministers are pressing Mr Shamir to join their view at all costs and are enlisting world leaders to persuade Mr Shamir and the Likud to accept their views. My question is: Why is the prime minister not using his prerogative to put Mr Peres and the Alignment in their rightful place, thereby allowing the government to function until the end of its term?

[Shamir] This question has been heard throughout the country quite often during the last few days. One must bear in mind that our government is a special one. It is a national unity government composed of members of the two large parties. The nature of this government has its advantages, as well as its disadvantages and weaknesses, one of which you have mentioned.

I would like to say that the government has only one prime minister. There are some members of the Cabinet who, when it comes to several issues, hold views that differ from the prime minister's and, from what he knows, they also conflict with the views of the majority of Cabinet members. I am convinced that the national unity government is important and vital for Israel even today, despite its weaknesses. I therefore exercise patience and tolerance toward views that run counter to mine or to those held by the entire Cabinet. Of course, there is a limit to this patience; it is difficult to determine those limits, just as it is hard to say when they will be exhausted. It depends on me. At this moment, I am determined in my desire to maintain the national unity government.

I can assure the listener that insofar as the international conference is concerned, what counts is the Cabinet's decision on whether or not to participate in such a conference. To date, the Cabinet has not yet made any such decision and will not participate in it. This means that Israel will not participate in such a conference if one is held. Most probably, if Israel does not participate, no such conference will be convened. Therefore, if the listener is worried that such a conference will be held and that Israel will participate in it, then he may rest assured and be certain that Israel will not participate in it and, consequently, that no conference will be held.

[Question] I would like to ask the prime minister about the national unity government: Is this really unity? Are early elections not preferable to the differences of opinion that sometimes make a mockery of the Cabinet in the eyes of the public and the world as a whole?

[Shamir] As I have said earlier, I prefer this government over early elections. Early elections at this point will cause damage to the country, primarily its economy. The chief purpose of the national unity government, when it was first established, was to improve and heal our economy. We have been faithful to this goal; indeed, in the course of this government's tenure improvement has been marked. I believe that this improvement must continue, as we have not yet achieved the ultimate objective and are still quite far from it.

I can promise you that the Cabinet is not a subject of ridicule in the world or even, I do not think, in the eyes of the Israeli public. Everyone knows that this is a unique type of government that aspires to internal unity, which indeed exists to a certain extent. This unity is important, and I insist that this government will see the end of its term until the legal time for elections.

[Question] I would like to ask you, Mr Prime Minister, why you voted on the underground detainees as you did in contravention and despite the Cabinet's position as presented by the justice minister?

[Shamir] I have explained this several times: That was not a Cabinet position; the Cabinet never held a debate on the matter and did not make any decisions on it, which was why every minister had the right, as a Cabinet member, to express his own view.

My opinion has been known for a long time, ever since we first began to hold a public debate of sorts on this sorry chapter of a Jewish underground in Israel. As everyone knows, I firmly object to underground activity of any sort in this country. I oppose it, believing that Israel must take all the necessary measures and employ all the tools at its disposal to prevent the existence of such activity. We have done so in this specific case and this underground was eliminated. Its members have been penalized and most of them have admitted to having made a mistake — a move they made from their own volition, as all the people who know them and all their friends can attest. I think that to eradicate this phenomenon, and in order not to leave a bitter aftertaste or bring suffering upon the families, which everyone agrees are innocent, it is necessary to show leniency and compassion in this case and to eliminate this phenomenon by way of an amnesty. This is not anything unusual; it is acceptable and has been done in many enlightened countries. Even Israel did the same 40 years ago in an affair which, despite not being completely parallel, is nevertheless very similar. That is why I suggested, and believe it would be a correct step, that the amnesty law be passed and thus end this sorry episode. [passage omitted]

[Question] I would like to ask the prime minister about the international conference. In view of the fact that you object to the international conference in the framework it would have according to the existing proposal, how far would you go in your opposition to such a move should Jordanian and Palestinian representatives show the same measure of opposition to your alternative solution — the regional conference or direct negotiations? And how do you think a stalemate in the peace talks could affect the chances for peace in the near future, or the chances of Syria joining the process?

[Shamir] This issue has been discussed backward and forward by our public. I can only tell you that to the best of my understanding, such a conference, in the way it has been proposed — namely, an international conference with the participation of all the elements that by and large oppose Israel's views — will never bring peace. Instead, it will wreak a lot of trouble upon Israel. That is why I oppose it. Many people share my view, even from parties that traditionally hold views opposite to those of my party. Furthermore, this has been the position of past leaders of the same party that today bears the banner of the conference.

I suggest direct negotiations in various forums, because Israel has always believed this to be the best way to reach peaceful solutions. At the moment, it is difficult to convince our neighbors of

this, for they find it easier to prefer an international conference. They are sure that in such a conference they will beat us to dust and bring serious damage to Israel. Yet the moment they are persuaded that Israel is not marching toward that trap, and if they still desire peace, they will have to tread the only path, that of direct negotiations. I do not know when this will happen, but it is clear to me that the more we hasten to attack this damaging proposal of an international conference, the closer we will approach the way that could bring about peace; namely, direct negotiations.

[Question] I would like to ask the prime minister about indemnifying the families of the Ra's al-Burqah victims. The Egyptian foot-dragging is very worrisome. Is it really the legal aspect that is hampering the payment of compensation, or is it the clearly evident Egyptian lack of sincerity and honesty in wanting to end this affair honorably? What does the prime minister intend to do about this matter?

[Shamir] Indeed, this is a sad problem. It is difficult to comprehend the Egyptian authorities' attitude toward this issue. When I said as much to the Egyptian foreign minister, who was here just a few days ago, he never even apologized or tried to find justification. He said that they were going to resolve the problem soon in the most logical and humane manner. The solution depends solely on the Egyptians. It is not a legal question; it is one that should be decided upon by the political bodies in Egypt. I hope that they will really understand that this problem must be resolved and that compensation must be paid, thereby dispelling something which has largely clouded bilateral relations.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, Israel has been holding on to the conquered territories since 1968. These areas are the home of hundreds of thousands of Arabs who have no civil rights. In view of the Likud's policy of continuing to control the territories, how do you envision the state of democracy in Israel in a few years?

[Shamir] This is not only the Likud's position. There are no conquered territories; we control Eretz Yisra'el. All the areas in which Jews and Arabs reside are part of Eretz Yisra'al, and our rule there is legal, just, and legitimate in every aspect under the sun. In terms of the inhabitants' democratic rights, we have not declared that all these areas which came under our rule through the 6-Day War — which incidentally took place in 1967, not 1968 — except for the Golan heights and East Jerusalem, which today are an integral part of the State of Israel in the formal sense, too. [sentence as heard] With respect to all the other territories, in accordance with the Camp David accords, we are duty-bound to refrain from determining their formal status until negotiations on their future are held and concluded. Consequently, the civilian status of the Arab inhabitants of these areas has not yet been determined.

If the Arabs accept our positions and enter into negotiations on these territories, and if, as a result of these negotiations we determine the final status of the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District and reach an acceptable solution, then a solution will concurrently also be found to the civilian status of all the inhabitants of these regions. Then there will be no room for your question.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, recently preferential status has been given to the establishment and development of new settlements in the Gaza Strip, which is only 300 km long, compared to the Negev, where I live, which stretches over 10,000 km. At the moment, the Gaza Strip is a controversial issue, whereas the Negev — which is unquestionably within Israeli territory — has not been given preference by you. We have not heard as much, at least.

[Shamir] We give no preference to any specific part of Eretz Yisra'el. We do not give priority to one region over another. All parts of Eretz Yisra'el are accorded the same attitude and are shown the same degree of consideration.

[Questioner continues] Yes, but I cannot see it in actuality. I live in this region and while I can see the Gaza Strip settlement blooming and in full settlement swing, I also see the Negev — an integral part of Israel — barren, although top priority could have been given to it. Still, the fact remains that I cannot see it.

[Shamir] This Cabinet and its predecessors have done a lot to develop the Negev. If you look around and note the number of settlements established over the past few years and notice the amount of money invested in them, you will see that a great effort has been made to develop the Negev. If you observe a development momentum in the Gaza District, it results from the fact that the local settlers have been making tremendous efforts, almost without any government assistance, to set up and develop settlements and improve the standard of living there. I recently visited the region and derived great pleasure and satisfaction from observing the great effort being made by the local inhabitants.

As for the Negev, if you take Elat, for example, it has experienced a great boom over the past 1 or 2 years. There are certain parts of the Negev that have suffered, or still do. We are thinking about them, trying to find ways to extract them from this freeze. I also assume that having signed an agreement with the U.S. broadcasting authorities on the establishment of a relay station in the Negev, this will also boost progress and development in an important part of the area. As a rule, once we have greater means at our disposal, this will be felt both in the Negev, as in the Galilee, Judaea, and Samaria, and in the Gaza District. [passage omitted]

[Question] I would like to ask a question about the Lavi aircraft. To the best of my knowledge, the IDF prefers the F-16 over the Lavi, while the Cabinet supports going ahead with the project. Why this conflict, and what considerations are taken into account by the decisionmakers? Another question that I would like to ask is: Why, after so many years of hard toil and labor, as well as a vigorous development campaign to suit the IDF's demands, is that body rejecting its very own creation?

[Shamir] You have certainly asked a handful of questions, but let me first get the facts straight. There is no conflict between the IDF and the Cabinet. The Cabinet is currently engaged in a discussion on continuing or halting the Lavi project. It so happens that today's General Staff, including the chief of staff, believe the project should not be pursued in order to ensure that other issues they believe have greater preference from the defense point

of view are given top priority. On the other hand, there are some members of the defense establishment, as well as in the Knesset and the Cabinet, who believe that such an important project, this tremendous achievement, should not be given up. The Lavi itself, even in its current stage, constitutes an enormous triumph for Israel, showing that it can today produce one of the best aircraft in the world. This in itself is such an overall achievement that one cannot easily give it up. No one disputes this. The problem is where can we find the financial resources to complete the development and manufacture of the Lavi. On the other hand, there is also the question of whether to direct existing resources toward the development and production of the Lavi or earmark them to other subjects which are just as important. The problem is a legitimate one; it is reasonable. The dilemma is a hard one, and it involves defense, economic, and sometimes even political aspects.

Small wonder, therefore, that the Cabinet is finding it difficult to conduct a debate on the matter and more so to find its solution. But since a decision must be made, I believe we will reach one soon, at which point the most suitable way will be found. I hope that the decision will be the right one.

[Friedman] Have you, Mr Prime Minister, already made up your mind on the matter? You were supposed to receive the Israel Aircraft Industries alternative plan recently.

[Shamir] My position is clear. I am still dealing with the matter and discussing it in preparation for the final Cabinet debate on it. The problem is how to persuade the majority of the Cabinet members to rally around one solution.

[Friedman] Which is to continue to produce the aircraft?

[Shamir] As far as I am concerned, yes. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] It is now 17 minutes to the hour, and still no one has asked the prime minister about our relations with the Soviet Union. That being the case, let me ask a question: The papers reported today that the Soviets have held back a consignment of SS-23 missiles they had planned to send to Syria. We have also heard about all sorts of other steps, which some see as attempts to soften the West or Israel. Do you share this view?

[Shamir] I would suggest that our public not latch on to every morsel of information published in some paper anywhere in the world, to draw conclusions from it, or to pin to it mounds of hopes and aspirations. While it is true that there have been reports that the Soviet Union is not providing Syria with those missiles, this does not necessarily have to be the outcome of friendship toward or concern for Israel's security; it could also stem from Syria's position toward Iraq, which is another of the Soviet Union's allies, or from the Syria-PLO conflict — and the PLO is currently, as everyone knows, the Soviet Union's baby. So this postponement in the supply of SS-23 missiles to Syria could be given lots of interpretations and attributed to the Soviet Union's concern for such elements as Iraq and the PLO, not necessarily Israel. [passage omitted]

[Question] How can it be, Mr Prime Minister, that while on the one hand Israel is severing relations with South Africa, on the other hand at home we have a policy of discrimination against Jews — as in Nabulus, where Jews by virtue of being such are prevented from settling. Furthermore, even the installation of a heating device against the harsh winter or a gas cooling system for the summer are being forbidden to the students at the Joseph's Tomb Yeshiva.

[Shamir] First of all, Israel has not severed its relations with South Africa, nor is it contemplating such a move. As for Joseph's Tomb, I am aware of the existing differences of opinion. They result from security considerations. As to whether they are justified or not, this is a matter of dispute, but it has nothing to do with the government's policy.

[Friedman] Although you have suggested that we not pay too much attention to reports in the newspapers, nevertheless they have reported that a third party has offered to arrange a meeting between yourself and King Husayn and that the latter did not turn this down outright. Political sources in Jerusalem, so the report goes, regard this as an encouraging sign. What could you say about this in public on the radio, not in the press?

[Shamir] Honestly, I have wracked my brains over the past 24 hours trying to guess who that third party is of all the parties that have expressed an opinion and made suggestions. Everyone knows my view, which is that I am prepared to meet with every leader of an Arab country. I believe such meetings are necessary and can only help to promote peace and improve our relations with our neighbors. For my part, I repeat: I am prepared to meet with any leader of an Arab country. Yet I object to meetings, by myself or anyone else, with PLO leaders. But I am ready to meet with the leaders of any Arab country. The rest depends on these leaders.

[Friedman] Can you also envision a possibility of entering into negotiations; say, you raise a proposal and Husayn conceivably accepts them even though your ideologies are well known?

[Shamir] Certainly. I think that the only way remaining open for the improvement of relations between us and neighboring countries and for making peace is that of negotiations. I am prepared to embark on this route at any moment. Moreover, I am convinced that if we launch negotiations and begin a dialogue, and if our neighbors raise their proposals and we bring ours, there will be a good chance that we will reach a mutual agreement. [passage omitted]

[Question] What has the war in Lebanon contributed to Israel's security and was it worth the sacrifices and heavy toll? Secondly, what economic damage did it wreak?

[Shamir] That war reached a near end several years ago. I say it was almost finished, because even today we still have problems along the Lebanese border. I believe that at present we are more or less in full control of the situation and the northern part of our country is quiet. No civilians are killed or hurt, and life there has resumed its normal course. If this indeed is the situation, it is the outcome of our operation in Lebanon a few years ago, when we eliminated the terrorist bases there and pushed them away from our borders. This is my answer.

As for the economic price, it is difficult to assess what is a just or unjust price of any military operation. Wars are inordinately expensive — any war, that is — and cannot even be gauged by regular parameters. I just see the normal state of security felt in the Galilee as evidence of the solution and the returns coming in from the efforts and sacrifices we made in this fight against the PLO in Lebanon.

[Friedman] I was asked to present another question related to the war in Lebanon, on whether you could say something that would encourage the families of the POW's and MIA's, some of whom have been gone since that war.

[Shamir] I can tell the families and friends of the POW's and MIA's that the Israeli Government, and particulary the defense establishment, have been making every conceivable effort to find out the truth, to release them, and to bring them home in the nearest possible future. [passage omitted)

Fears of New U.S. Demands on Pollard Affair
TA240858 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
24 Jul 87 pp 1. 15

[Report by Tova Tzimuqi in Jerusalem]

[Excerpt] The Pollard affair, which appears to be dormant, is again cause for concern among political and security elements in Israel.

Jerusalem is worried about the U.S. Justice Department's plans to put Rafi Eytan, Yosi Yagur, and Irit Erb on trial. There is also concern about signs of further complications which could result in the United States making new demands on Israel.

Davar has learned that after rethinking the matter and postponing a decision, U.S. Deputy Attorney General [title as published] William Weld is to announce his intention to submit charges against the three. [passage omitted]

Arrangement Outlines Terms of Trade With Spain
TA231214 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 23 Jul 87 p 1

[Excerpt] An arrangement outlining terms for trade between Israel and Spain has been formulated in deliberations between representatives of both countries.

The negotiations on this matter have been underway since May in Jerusalem and Brussels against the backdrop of Spain's incorporation into the EEC, with which Israel has a free trade agreement.

Zohar Peri, the assistant director of the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Foreign Trade Administration, has reported that the arrangement determines an interim period for comparing the terms for importing from Spain to Israel with those of imports from EEC countries. According to the arrangement, customs duties on goods not produced in Israel will be reduced as soon as the new arrangement is implemented. Customs duties on another group of products, including industrial goods also manufactured in Israel which could suffer from the imports from Spain, will be gradually reduced by 1 January 1993. Israel will be able to restrict the import of products described as "especially sensitive," such as textile goods, tires, ceramics, and so on, during the interim period.

When the arrangement goes into effect, Israeli exports to Spain will benefit from the comparison with the terms governing imports from the EEC countries to Spain. The arrangement determines that from 1 January 1993, all Israeli imports to Spain, as well as imports to Spain from the other EEC countries, will be exempt from all customs duties.

The agreement will become valid once the negotiations between Israel and Portugal are completed. According to Zohar Peri, the negotiations with Portugal have been held up because of differences of opinion over Israel's possible continued restriction of textile and other imports. [passage omitted]

New Air Force Commander Bin-Nun Interviewed
TA221741 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1505 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Interview with Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, outgoing head of the IDF Planning Branch and future Air Force commander, by Yitzhaq Tunik and Yosi 'Abadi in the IDF Radio studio; date not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Tunik] Could a decision on the Lavi, whatever decision it is, change the IDF's multiyear plan or even upset it completely?

[Bin-Nun] Yes, and that is why we raised the Lavi issue in the headlines upon the completion of the IDF's multiyear plan. It became absolutely clear that under no circumstances — given the budgetary constraints and without a very substantial annual addition of hundreds of millions of shekels to the defense budget — would it be possible to have the Lavi and yet maintain an already curtailed multiyear plan that would meet Israel's security needs.

[Tunik] What kind of situation does the present multiyear plan envision?

[Bin-Nun] When we worked on the multiyear plan, we assumed that the Lavi project would continue. This supposition led us to the conclusion that it would be impossible to implement the multiyear program without substantial budgetary supplements.

[Tunik] You are actually the person who is responsible for the past 2 years' slashing of the order of battle in the Army. In other words, you are in charge of personnel and determine the number of positions in the IDF. Is the IDF truly smaller today?

[Bin-Nun] The cuts and changes in activity that have taken place over the past 2 years have been, to my deep regret, the most unsavory aspects of the job that I had to deal with. Over the past 2 years, the scope of activity and number of personnel have experienced cuts unprecedented in the IDF's history. The IDF cut back mainly in the various commands, as well as in secondary

areas and those in which there was still room for further cuts, irrespective of the very hefty ones already executed. Unfortunately, the IDF's standing combat forces — in the air, on the ground, and at sea — have all been curtailed.

['Abadi] These cutbacks were effected after years of growth. How did the IDF manage to cope with this turnabout trend?

[Bin-Nun] It was a very difficult and extended process. The fact that it was implemented only in the past 2 years, although it may have been necessary even before, stemmed from the problems in changing the mentality of constant growth which had prevailed since the IDF was established. What the IDF had traditionally considered difficult periods were therefore ones of maintaining the status quo, never of cuts. Now the trend is to cut back, and it does not result from threats but from constraints. Naturally, the problem was to find a way to cut back on items that have the least effect on the battlefield and at the same time to continue to invest and improve qualitatively.

['Abadi] Some people regard such cuts as a trimming off of the fat and see the process as a healthy move for the Army, which becomes small and lithe instead of fat and slovenly. Is this feeling justified?

[Bin-Nun] In the final analysis, if we ignore the threats for a moment and only look at the process that has taken place within the Army, personally I believe this is indeed what has happened.

We narrowed the margins, trimming where it was less important and reinforcing where we believed we would obtain a qualitative solution. However, if we look at the absolutely vital things we need to respond to, threats and scenarios that are not even the worst, we realize that today we are experiencing a more difficult problem than we have ever faced before. [passage omitted]

[Tunik] Let me ask you about the last 2 years in terms of the fabric of relations with the United States, in view of the Pollard and Avi'em Sela' affairs. As a man responsible for ties with the United States, did you notice any change or problem?

[Bin-Nun] There is no doubt that the mishaps you have mentioned in relations with the United States will have a long-term effect on bilateral relations, although possibly more on the personal level than on the governmental level. Yet no change for the worse has taken place in our routine work or in the contacts we maintain. On the contrary, since I assumed duty there has been tangible progress and an improvement. We see no fundamental change or negative trend following these affairs, so it seems to me that we are approaching the end of these cases. [passage omitted]

No Party Discipline in Likud Voting on Lavi

TA231041 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Jul 87 p 1

[Report by the economic affairs correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] The Likud ministers will be able to vote according to their conscience in the Cabinet meeting at which a decision on the Lavi will be made. Yesterday the Likud ministers adopted the prime minister's proposal that party discipline not be imposed on the Lavi issue, as was originally proposed by Minister Moshe Arens. It appears that the Cabinet debate on the Lavi, which will apparently be the decisive one, will be held at the first Cabinet session in August. It is believed at present that the decision will be determined by one vote.

West Bank Mayors Present Demands to Rabin

TA231428 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] This afternoon the defense minister hosted mayors from Judaea and Samaria in his office. Various issues were discussed and the mayors presented a list of demands from the defense establishment. Mr Rabin promised to treat their demands favorably.

The meeting was also attended by Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, and Brigadier General Efrayim Sene, head of the Civilian Administration.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that earlier this week the defense minister conferred with former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa.

Soviet Volunteers at Work Camp in Nazareth

TA230710 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Jul 87 p 2

[Text] Nazareth — For the first time since the Six Day War, a Soviet delegation is participating in a four-day work camp here sponsored by the Communist-led Nazareth municipality.

Prior to 1967, various Soviet delegations had frequently visited Nazareth.

The Soviet volunteers, together with 15 other delegations from Asia, Europe and America and some 4,000 Israeli Arabs and residents of the territories start work today on 65 local projects ranging from road building, sewage and water pipe repairs, to renovating school buildings.

UNIFIL Detains 'Terrorists,' Confiscates Weapons

TA230817 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] This week UN soldiers in southern Lebanon detained 11 terrorist squads on their way to perpetrate attacks in the security zone. Several of the terrorists were Syrian citizens. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that some of the squads were equipped with sophisticated weapons and modern wireless radio equipment. UNIFIL soldiers confiscated the terrorists' equipment, but let the terrorists themselves go free.

Group Issues Statement on Glass, Waite, Normandin

JN241629 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] As the crisis of the Iranian and French Embassies continues in Paris and Tehran, a group called the Organization of Truth Against Falsehood has issued a statement in Shtawrah in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' area in which it said that it is detaining U.S. journalist Charles Glass and French television technician Jean-Louis Normandin.

In its statement, which was sent to a newspaper correspondent in Shtawrah, the organization threatened to execute Normandin if the French Government continues its siege of the Iranian Embassy in Paris. The statement was attached to a letter which the group said is from Glass to the U.S. Government asking it to meet the demands of his kidnappers lest they execute him. In the letter, Glass admits he is a spy. However, the authenticity of the letter is doubtful because it is written in poor English and full of grammatical and spelling errors. The letter refers to the Anglican envoy Terry Waite. It said that Waite's health is very poor and that he needs treatment. The statement noted that the organization has begun a trial for Charles Glass and Terry Waite.

Islamic Jihad Reiterates Warning to France

NC231957 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] The Islamic Jihad organization again warned France this evening that it will not release any of the French hostages it is holding unless the French Government meets its demands.

In a statement sent to a foreign news agency in Beirut with a photograph of French journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann attached to it, the Islamic Jihad organization affirmed that its demands are clear and that the French Government is well aware of them. The organization said it is for this reason that none of the French hostages will emerge alive if the demands are not fully met.

Denies Hostage Execution Decision

NC232014 Paris AFP in English 2000 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Beirut, July 23 (AFP) — Islamic Jihad on Thursday said no French hostages would be released alive unless its demands are met, and threatened to retaliate for any French military action.

The pro-Iranian, Shi'ite fundamentalist group made its statement in a typewritten Arabic communique to the office of a Western press agency in Beirut, accompanied by a photograph of French journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann, kidnapped on May 22, 1985.

The group denied, however, that it had decided to execute two French hostages following France's decision to sever its diplomatic relations with Iran a week ago.

An anonymous caller claiming to be from Islamic Jihad told a Western press agency in Beirut last Friday [17 July] that it would execute two French hostages "immediately" in retaliation for the break.

Six Frenchmen are among the 25 foreigners believed held in Lebanon.

In the communique, Islamic Jihad said the French Government knows its demands, and no French hostages would be released alive unless those demands are met.

The group threatened to retaliate for French military action, but did not specify what type of action or how it would retaliate.

VOL Report on 'Threat'

NC232046 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] The Islamic Jihad organization has once again threatened France that none of the French hostages it is holding in Lebanon will be released alive unless the French authorities accede to the organization's demands, which include the suspension of its military assistance to Iraq and the release of 17 detainees involved in terrorist operations in Kuwait.

The Islamic Jihad's threat was contained in a statement which was delivered to a foreign news agency in Beirut along with a photograph of French hostage Jean-Paul Kauffmann, who had a beard and looked exhausted. The organization challenged France to carry out a military operation to free the hostages.

Hizballah Official: Anti-France Acts To Continue

NC240623 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] In a statement to the magazine *Magazine*, Hizballah official Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli stated that France is an enemy of the Muslims, adding that it has persecuted and humiliated Muslims and has occupied the country since 1860, first imposing a regime and then withdrawing after placing its agents in the top posts. He said that the French presence in Lebanon is unjust and colonialist. He emphasized that the Muslims will fight the French wherever they find them because France declared war against the Islamic nation. He affirmed that Muslims in Lebanon will continue their actions against France and the United States.

Hizballah Stages March; Islamic Amal Leader Remarks

NC241500 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Hizballah staged a march from Bi'r al-'Abd to Al-Musharrafiyah at 1500 today. The demonstrators shouted slogans denouncing France, the United States, and the Arab countries that support Iraq.

Meanwhile, in a news interview, [Islamic Amal Movement leader] Husayn Musawi has stated that the pro-Iranian kidnappers of the hostages in Lebanon might take measures against the U.S. and French hostages.

Musawi Rules Out 'Confrontation' With Syria

NC232029 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] Islamic Amal Movement leader Husayn Musawi has said in an interview with the magazine *Magazine*: We, as Muslims, do not believe in the presence of an ultimate state called Lebanon. We regard the entire Islamic world as our homeland and see no difference between a Lebanese, Pakistani, or American Muslim.

Musawi admitted that most of the weapons which extremist Muslims obtain come from Iran. He disclosed that dealings with Syria do not include the supply of weapons.

With regard to the tension existing between the fundamentalists and Damascus, Musawi acknowledged that there may be tension but simultaneously ruled out any military confrontation with Syria. He revealed that during a visit to Damascus, a Hizballah delegation had received assurances from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that no Syrian forces would enter [Beirut's southern] suburb.

Shaykh Sha'ban Criticizes UN Resolution on Gulf War

NC232045 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, today criticized the UN resolution calling for an immediate halt to the Iraq-Iran war, saying that it goes against religion.

Sha'ban also attacked Arab countries that have agreed to fly the U.S. flag.

Al-Huss To Confront U.S. Plans on Jerusalem Embassy

NC231354 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 JuL 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister al-Huss has instructed the Foreign Ministry to make intensive diplomatic efforts to confront plans to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem.

Acting Prime Minister al-Huss has received a message on this matter from Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, informing him that the U.S. Congress is in the process of discussing a draft resolution providing for the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem. Klibi asks acting Prime Minister al-Huss to participate in efforts to confront this plan.

Unification Front Committee Departs for South

NC231442 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] A Unification and Liberation Front committee left for Tyre at 1400 today. The committee was accompanied by Colonel Ziyad and Captain Ahmad, members of the Syrian observers team in Sidon, and by Lieutenant Colonel Mahmud al-Hajj, commander of the gendarmerie in the south. The purpose of the visit is to examine conditions in the [Palestinian] camps there and to find out the facts with regard to displaced persons and detainees.

The committee comprises representatives of the following: Shaykh Muhammad Salim Jalal al-Din, the mufti of Sidon and the south; Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan; Deputy Nazih al-Bizri; the Nasirite Popular Organization; the Syrian observers; the Lebanese Communist Party; the Ba'th Party organization; and the Islamic Group.

The committee's task is to supervise the questioning of detainees, discuss the issue of the prisoners, and make sure that all displaced persons have returned to their homes.

Before the committee's departure for Tyre, a meeting was held at the house of Deputy Nazih al-Bizri at noon today. During the meeting, Deputy al-Bizri agreed with leaders of the Sidon camps that lists should be drawn up of the names of displaced persons and their whereabouts. The committee will escort these persons back to their homes at 1000 tomorrow.

Visits Refugee Camps in Tyre

NC231720 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] A meeting of the Unification and Liberation Front committee was convened at the Al-Imam al-Sadiq club upon its arrival in Tyre. [passage omitted]

The meeting, which concluded at 1745, was attended by Amal Movement leaders in the south; Abu Muhammad Lutfi, secretary of the Popular Committees in Al-Rashidiyah camp; and officials from Tyre. [passage omitted]

Committee sources disclosed that during the meeting, the Amal Movement presented videotapes to the committee pertaining to the investigations of and the confessions made by members of an assassination network whom the Amal Movement had arrested in the Tyre area.

It has been learned that the committee members have agreed to begin their work, which include visits to the [Palestinian refugee] camps in the Tyre area, today. The committee will peruse all of the files on the investigations which the Amal Movement has carried out and will also meet with all of the individuals currently being detained by the Movement.

Following these decisions, the members of the committee proceeded to the Palestinian camps in Tyre, accompanied by popular committees, in order to tour the Al-Buss and Al-Qasimiyah camps. The committee will visit the remainder of the camps tomorrow.

We have been informed that the committee members have agreed to repatriate some of the displaced families from the city of Sidon to the camps in Tyre.

Amal Links Fighting to Visit

NC232034 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] A responsible information official in the Amal Movement has made the following statement:

The Amal Movement is extending its hand to all sincere people who want to nip sedition in the bud. The brother members of the investigating committee, consisting of Sidon politicians, nationalists, and Islamic leaders, have begun their work to find out the truth about the situation in the [Palestinian] camps in the Tyre area in order to refute the rumors that have been disseminated by the trumpets of the Palestinian organizations. At such a time, 'Arafat's gunmen have triggered the security situation on the lines east of Sidon and launched a violent and concentrated bombardment of the peaceful southern villages. By doing so, they have exposed the falsehood of their allegations and revealed their intentions of once again disrupting the situation in the nationalist and Islamic arena. This is plainly an attempt to obstruct the work of the newly formed Unification and Liberation Front. The program of this front is clear in all its aspects, especially where the Palestinians are concerned.

Meanwhile, our correspondent in Tyre has reported that at 1930 today the investigating committee met in that city with some members of the network which had committed crimes in the Tyre area. No one from the Amal Movement was present when the committee heard statements by the members of this network about their role in the crimes. Committee sources said that these statements were mostly identical to those contained in the files on the investigations and to the confessions that were recorded on videotapes. The members of the investigating committee are expected to meet with the rest of the detainees later.

'Resistance' Group Attacks Israeli-Lahd Position

NC231130 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] A national resistance group attacked at dawn today a position held jointly by the enemy and his agents in Rumaysh, using rockets and machineguns. A 10-minute clash ensued. The observation posts were destroyed, an Israeli intelligence vehicle was blown up, and at least five persons manning the position were killed or wounded.

In the meantime, a land mine which the resistance men had planted to cut supplies to the enemy has exploded, destroying an Army personnel carrier and killing or wounding its crew. The agents' radio has admitted the attack, claiming that one agent was killed and two others wounded.

Resistance Kills 4 in Tumat Nihah

NC240500 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0300 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] The Islamic Resistance issued a statement last night, saying: The martyrs 'Ali 'Ammar and 'Ali Wahbah group of the Islamic Resistance infiltrated close to enemy positions in Tumat Nihah yesterday afternoon. When an enemy patrol passed nearby, the Islamic Resistance fighters opened fire with light and heavy machineguns and rockets. A clash ensued in which four enemy soldiers were killed and one was wounded. Their bodies are still at the scene of the clash, for the occupation forces have not been able to enter the area of the ambush.

The Islamic Resistance statement adds that its artillery is still pounding the enemy's fortifications and posts, instilling fear in the ranks of the agents who have left their positions.

Explosion at Hubayqah's Headquarters in Zahlah

NC240628 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] An explosion occurred at 0710 this morning at the headquarters of the followers of Elie Hubayqah [former Lebanese Forces commander] near the 3-story Al-Qadiri hotel in Zahlah, which had previously been occupied by the General Zahlah Grouping. According to preliminary reports, one person was killed and a man called Ilyas Tawi' was wounded. The explosion also caused considerable material damage.

Explosion Near Hizballah Hospital in Ba'labakk

NC241150 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] An explosion took place near the Khomeyni Hospital of the Iranian Revolution Guards in Ba'labakk today, causing material damage. The Syrian forces have a position some 20 meters from the hospital. Acute tension prevails between the pro-Iran Shi'ite fundamentalists and the Syrian Army in the Al-Biqa' area.

Minister al-Hashim Leaves for Talks in Morocco

NC231004 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Joseph al-Hashim, minister of posts and telecommunications and of public health and social affairs, left for Morocco today to participate in meetings of [Arab] ministers of environment, social affairs, interior, and information.

Strike Staged to Protest Economic 'Deterioration'

NC231000 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Excerpt] A general strike will be staged today to protest strained circumstances and economic deterioration. Lebanese papers did not appear today because of this strike. [passage omitted]

Bus Hits Rebel Mine in Takhar Province; 22 Killed

LD221724 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] *Bakhtar* has reported that extremist opposition elements have planted a mine on a stretch of the Takhar Province road and martyred a number of our innocent compatriots. The report states that a bus carrying 22 persons, including men, women, and children, was traveling along the road from Taloqan city, the provincial capital of Takhar District, when it hit a mine that had been planted by the traitorous extremist elements between Toloqan and Farkhar Districts. All the passengers were martyred.

The report adds that the elders, religious leaders, and citizens of Taloqan city held a meeting today to express their strong indignation with the perpetrators of this painful incident.

Officials Send Greetings to Poland's Jaruzelski

LD220644 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0454 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Kabul, July 21, *Bakhtar* — A congratulatory message was sent by Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, Haji Muhammed Chamkani, acting president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA and Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA to Polish People's Republic (PPR) on the occasion of 40th anniversary of independence of that country.

The message was addressed to Comrade Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the Polish United Workers Party, president of State's Council and chairman of Council of Ministers of the PPR.

More successes has been wished in the message for the government and people of the PPR in construction of a developed socialist country. The message expressed confidence that mutual friendly cooperations between the peoples of the DRA and PPR will be further consolidated in the benefit of international peace and security.

Keshtmand Attends Council of Ministers Meeting

LD231428 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Kabul, July 22, *Bakhtar* — The periodical plenary session of the Council of Ministers of the DRA studied and discussed the issues related to the implementation of the socio-economic development plan and the state budget in the first quarter of 1987.

Muhammad Aziz, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Committee of Planning presented to the session a report on the implementation of the plan and Muhammad Kabir, minister of finance, reported on the state budget and Abdul Basir Ranjbar, president of the Afghanistan Bank, on banking plan.

Speaking at the session, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, described the result of the implementation of the plan and state budget in the first quarter of the year successful. The value of the industrial products of the state and mixed sectors in the same period amounted to 4.47 billion afghanis in the price of 1978. This shows a growth rate of 3.1 percent as compared with the first quarter of 1987.

A number of development projects, S.A. Keshtmand continued to say, have been exploited during the first quarter of 1988, the examples of which are moulding plant of Jangalak complex and the first stage of blood bank in Kabul. The implementation of the plan in the first quarter of 1987 was 103.1 percent.

Touching on the activity of the private sector, chairman of the Council of Ministers said that the production of the private sector amounts to over one billion afghanis, (50 afghanis equals one dollar). Talks are going on with the Soviet Union about the utilisation of the credit agreed upon to be used for the growth of this sector and new private plants are under construction, said S.A. Keshtmand.

General Rafi Addresses Air Defense Force Officials

LD232119 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Comrade Major General Muhammad Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA defense minister, today visited various establishments of the rocket and artillery forces attached to the Air Defense Force.

According to a *Bakhtar* report, deputy defense ministers, heads of Army political affairs units, and a number of generals and high-ranking officers from the Defense Ministry accompanied Comrade Rafi. [passage omitted]

Comrade Rafi took part in a gathering of Air Defense Force officials and delivered a speech. He drew the attention of the officials to their responsibilities toward the people, the homeland, and the revolution, and gave them instructions on increasing the combat capability of their forces. [passage omitted]

Islamic Coalition Issues First Statement

LD232024 Tehran IRNA in English 1931 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA — Afghan Islamic Coalition in a statement released Wednesday warned those trying to decide arbitrarily fate of the Afghan Muslim nation and called on mujahidin to be alert against any blasphemy.

The statement, the first ever issued since the coalition was formed on June 18, said that the purpose of the coalition is to safeguard the Islamic revolutionary values of Afghanistan and prevent any deviation from the neither East, nor West policy of the struggle.

The fighting in Afghanistan, it said, will continue as long as the anti-Islamic Kabul regime supported by world arrogance

remains in power whether under the guise of 'Khalq or Parcham parties', Zahir Shah or any other treacherous elements.

The coalition denounced all negotiations, including the current Geneva talks, to find a solution for the Afghan problem. The coalition announced that its 'sole unalterable' strategy was to pursue fighting till the final victory when the last Soviet soldier was kicked out of Afghanistan and the Islamic government established there.

The coalition comprises the Afghan Nasr Organisation, Guards of Islamic Jihad of Afghanistan, United Islamic Front of Afghanistan, Islamic Force of Afghanistan, Da'wa Party of Islamic Unity of Afghanistan, Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, Islamic Struggle for Afghanistan.

Reports of Violence, Killing Throughout Country
BK231654 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] The government has again called upon all concerned to refrain from unlawful activities in the greater national interest for containing the deteriorating law and order situation in the country. In a press note on the hartal [strike] situation today, the government deplored that the law and order situation has deteriorated and there has been untold sufferings to the people by the continued hartal program. As a result of antisocial activities, arson, hijacking and looting, the government and private property have been damaged.

At 0900 [0300 GMT] this morning, an unruly mob created obstacles at Palasy in the capital and attacked the police on duty. The unruly mob also attacked the Education and Statistics Bureau office and another office at Azimpur. The police fired tear gas shells to disburse the crowd. Later, the unruly crowd and small children attacked a building in the Motijhil commercial area. The police on duty, who were trying to contain them, came under attacks by the mob. They also tried to set on fire the building. To disperse the crowd, the police fired teargas shells and used lathi [baton] charge in self-defense. The miscreants became more violent and at one stage hijacked a police havildar [lower rank officer].

The press note says being unable to disperse the unruly, the police had to open fire, as a result of which two persons died on the spot. Two injured persons are under treatment in hospital.

At the same time, an unruly mob attacked the head office of the Bangladesh Biman [Bangladesh Airlines] and other offices at Motijhil and damaged furniture and windows. Three journalists were injured while on duty.

The miscreants also caused damage to an ambulance of the fire service by pelting stones. They also damaged a BRTC [Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation] bus near the technical center at Mirpur and set on fire a microbus at Motijhil. The miscreants hurled three hand bombs in front of the Nabisco factory in Tezgaon industrial area. Fifty-one police personnel were injured, some of them seriously.

In the afternoon, the miscreants, armed with lethal weapons, attacked the A1-Hilal police box at Motijhil. The police on duty were able to disperse the mobs. Some police personnel were injured while dispersing the crowd. In all, 52 people have been arrested in Dhaka metropolitan area. Later, a crowd of 30 persons armed with lethal weapons attacked an office of the youth organization. During the attack, a member of the labor organization was seriously wounded. He is now under treatment in hospital.

At the Donakpur industrial area in Khulna, one laborer died in a clash between laborers and police. One police was also injured. In (Latam), the railway tracks at Abdulpur railway station were removed and two trains halted. The students of Agricultural University in Mymensingh also halted two trains. They also damaged the furniture of an office.

In Chittagong, 13 police personnel were injured when they came under attack by an unruly mob. When the police opened fire in self-defense, two persons got bullet injuries. One of them succumbed to his injuries in hospital.

In Sirajganj, an unruly mob attacked the upazilla [subdistrict] court. The police had to open fire to bring the situation under control. One person died and four police personnel were injured. The condition of one of them is critical. The details of the press note are still coming in.

10 Deaths Reported 23 Jul
BK240610 Hong Kong AFP in English
0607 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Dhaka, July 24 (AFP) — Ten people were killed when police opened fire on anti-government protesters during a Bangladesh general strike, press reports said here Friday. There were no reports of fresh violence Friday as the strike entered its final hours, although debris from Thursday's violence still littered the streets, witnesses said. Ten people were killed in police firing in Dhaka and other areas of Bangladesh, press reports said Friday quoting opposition leaders.

The Home Ministry said Thursday that five people had been killed, two of them in Dhaka's Motijhil commercial district. Unofficial reports put the number of people injured across the country Thursday at about 300, a third of them policemen, with 150 people injured in Dhaka alone. It was the highest single day casualty toll in opposition strikes and agitations since President Ershad seized power in a bloodless coup in 1982, observers said.

The Motijhil area had seen clashes between police and anti-government protesters on Wednesday and Thursday, the first two days of a 54-hour general strike called by opposition political parties to pressure President Hussain Ershad to resign and call fresh elections.

Dhaka was quiet Friday, the Bangladesh week-end holiday, but the streets were still littered with stones, ashes and the debris of roadblocks, witnesses said, despite overnight police efforts to remove barricades. Municipal sweepers were clearing up the debris as tired-looking policemen posted at major road intersections sat on makeshift benches. Small groups of anti-government protesters paraded the streets Friday chanting slogans supporting the strike and opposing the government, but there were no reports of fresh violence, witnesses said.

The strike was due to end at noon Friday (0600 GMT), the time of weekly Moslem prayers. Opposition leaders were later to attend funerals of some of those killed Thursday, and have warned that they will hold rallies later in the day in Dhaka to announce a new programme of anti-government action.

The government has repeatedly dismissed opposition demands for its resignation and said it could not be toppled by strikes.

Dhaka Comments on Current Relations With Libya

BK231648 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 22 Jul 87

[News commentary]

[Text] A high-level Bangladesh team is now in the Libyan capital of Tripoli to enhance the level of bilateral relations between the two brotherly Muslim countries. The talks have begun. The visit is of all the greater importance because it is the first important team Bangladesh has sent to Libya since the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Republic recognized this South Asian nation on 11 December 1974. Their relations further developed when the countries established resident missions in both Dhaka and Tripoli in early 1975.

The current visit is expected to open up a new vista in Dhaka-Tripoli relations as the Bangladesh team this time is composed of senior officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Labor, Manpower, and one representative of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations.

Bangladesh and Libya are indeed time-tested friends. The bonds of amity and brotherhood are rooted in great religion Islam and history which [words indistinct] almost at the same time about 200 years ago. Both Bangladesh and Libya are of the same background, having close links and traditions which emanate from the Islamic (?teachings). Both Bangladesh and Libya are active members of the Organization of Islamic Conference, Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations.

Libya has all along been steady in developing brotherly relations with Bangladesh since the great Libyan leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, assumed power during the 1st September Revolution, which just preceded the Bangladesh war of independence in 1971. Since then, both the brotherly countries [words indistinct] exchange of visits by noted personalities, which added to (?widen) bilateral relations.

The first ministerial level delegation headed by the Libyan minister for establishment, Muhammad al-Mabruk, laid the solid foundation of Dhaka-Tripoli ties when it visited Bangladesh in 1975. The Libyan minister during his stay in Dhaka discussed ways and means of widening the scope of bilateral cooperation. The Libyan foreign minister, 'Abd al-'Ali al-Wasi, visited Bangladesh in December '83 to attend the foreign ministers conference of the OIC. During his stay, he discussed with the Bangladesh president, Hussain Mohammad Ershad, various modalities setting the pace of cooperation on a firm footing. He also delivered a personal letter from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Dr (Muhammad Ahmad Sharaf), secretary general of the World Islamic (?Call) Society, too, visited Dhaka at the same time.

Libya is currently playing a positive role in the development efforts of Bangladesh with the recruitment of more Bangladeshis in her uplift projects. About 25,000 Bangladeshis now working in Libya are at present sending huge foreign currencies home. New recruitments of Bangladeshi workers are expected in future. According to official sources, the number of non-Libyan manpower was increased from about 280,000 in 1980 to 400,000 this year at annual compound rate of 6.5 percent. It is expected that the proportion of non-Libyan manpower taking employment in Libya will increase from about 32.4 percent to about 40 percent this year. Libya is expected to have a sizeable chunk of efficient manpower from Bangladesh this year in the spirit of Islamic brotherhood, an official source said.

The international [words indistinct] technical and vocational training and research located in Dhaka has received a substantive assistance from the Government of Libya. Beside being a partner of Islamic Bank of Bangladesh along with other Arab nations, Libya has set up three medical centers in Dhaka, [name indistinct], and Comilla. In this connection, Libyan medical teams visited these centers to ascertain needs and requirements so that adequate medicare could be given to the poor Bangladeshis.

Libya is one of the contributors to the spread of Islam in Bangladesh by helping many mosques and madrasas in different parts of the country. About 100 students from Bangladesh are receiving higher education in Tripoli and Benghazi. About 31 Bangladesh teachers are at present working in different Libyan universities. What is interesting to note here is that Bangladeshi jute is now feeding the local jute mills in Libya. Raw jute from Bangladesh is being liberally imported there to make carpets, which now decorate the Libyan offices and houses.

The four-member Bangladesh team now in Tripoli is expected to ensure more Libyan interest, including jute and tea. Libya's (?imports include) foodstuff, [word indistinct] goods, industrial consumer goods, capital goods, and agricultural raw material. Bangladesh can also import from Libya crude oil, oil refining products, petrochemicals, and chemicals.

A Bangladesh-Libya joint economic commission is expected to be set up this time. The groundwork for the commission has been made already. The bilateral cooperation between Dhaka and Tripoli will get a great leap forward with meetings of the joint commission between Bangladesh and Tripoli. More bilateral contacts, too, will strengthen the bonds of Islamic brotherhood between the two countries.

Opposition Demands Dissolution of Parliament

BK240904 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] A meeting of the leaders of various opposition parties and groups in Parliament was held in New Delhi today to finalize their strategy and select issues to be highlighted during the monsoon session beginning on Monday.

A press release issued after the meeting says that the opposition leaders demanded dissolution of Parliament and holding of fresh elections. They alleged that the government has failed on political and economic fronts. The issues to be given priority by the opposition during the session include the parliamentary probe into the Bofors deal and the Fairfax issue. The meeting insisted that the suggestions of the opposition regarding terms of reference and powers of the proposed parliamentary committee should be accepted.

Other issues to be highlighted by the opposition include the Punjab problem, organized killings by terrorists in Delhi, Haryana and Punjab, communal disturbances in parts of the country and economic problems.

The parties and groups represented at the meeting include Telugu Desam [Party], CPI, CPI-M, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], Janata, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Lok Dal-A and Lok Dal-B, AGP [Asom Gana Parishad], DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], Akali Dal-A, and Akali Dal-B.

State Minister of Public Enterprises Resigns

BK231616 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1550 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] The minister of state for public enterprises, Mr K.K. Tiwari, has resigned from the Council of Ministers. He submitted his resignation to the prime minister this evening. Mr Tiwari said that he has resigned on his own.

Violent Incidents in Meerut, New Delhi Continue

Buses Guarded; Curfew Imposed

BK231613 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] In Meerut, the Army has been deployed in all sensitive areas to assist the local administration in maintaining law and order. Six bus passengers, including three women, were killed by some unidentified persons near Daurala, 25 kilometers away from Meerut, late last night. Police sources said in Lucknow that the six passengers were traveling in a Rajasthan Roadways bus on way to Hardwar. They were dragged out and killed. Armed escorts are being provided in all the buses plying through Meerut, Muradabad, and Agra divisions. In another incident, one person was killed and two injured near Dadri in Muzaffarnagar District this morning.

Indefinite curfew has been reimposed in Nawchandi, Dampuri, Lisarigate, Kot Wali, Delhi Gate, Sadar Bazar, and certain localities of Transportnagar, Railway Road, and Civil Lines police station areas.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has condemned the unprovoked attack on bus passengers. He spoke to the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr Vir Bahadur Singh, and requested him to rush immediate assistance to the victims. He also urged Mr Vir Bahadur Singh to make all out efforts to apprehend the culprits. Mr Buta Singh has appealed to the people to maintain peace and communal harmony.

Meerut Calm; Curfew Continues

BK240340 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] In Meerut, the situation remained peaceful last night with no untoward incident. An indefinite curfew, however, continues in five police station areas and certain localities of the Civil Lines, Railway Road, and Sadar Bazar. The curfew was imposed yesterday following some violent incidents. Police patrolling has been intensified, and the Army contingents deployed at sensitive places are assisting the local administration in maintaining law and order. The district administration has been asked to deal firmly with the antisocial elements.

Indefinite Curfew in Delhi Area

BK240842 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Indefinite curfew has been clamped in the entire Walled City of Delhi following stray incidents of stone throwing. According to police, the curfew was imposed around 1100 [0530 GMT] this morning to prevent any untoward incidents. The area covered under the curfew are Chandhi Mahal, Hauz Kazi, and Jama Masjid in the central district, and Town Hall and Lahori Gate in North Delhi. Night curfew was already in force in the central district areas.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons
LD241253 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Report on Friday prayers sermons by Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 24 July in Tehran]

[Text] According to Central News Unit reporters, simultaneously with the U.S military presence in the Persian Gulf and the conspiracies of the region's reactionary countries -- as well as the British and French Governments -- against the Islamic Republic, the revolutionary people of our country participated in the ideological and political ceremonies of the Friday prayers today. They chanted such slogans as "War, war until victory," "We are not the inhabitants of Kufah and will not let the imam remain alone," "The Persian Gulf of Iran — the burial place of Reagan," and "Death to France." Once again they have displayed their revolutionary awareness and enthusiasm in defending the Islamic revolution. According to these reports, the hezbollahi inhabitants of Tehran came to Tehran University and its surrounding thoroughfares, shouting "War, war, until victory," "Death to America," and "Death to France." They condemned the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf and the French cooperation with world arrogance and displayed their readiness to defend the Islamic revolution. This emotional demonstration of revolutionary enthusiasm delayed for several minutes the start of the sermons given by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council.

We now draw your attention to part of the revolutionary enthusiasm displayed by Tehran's Muslim inhabitants at today's ceremonies:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] May God Almighty protect you. [chanting of slogans "War, war until victory," "We are not the inhabitants of Kufah and will not let the imam remain alone," and "We will fight, we will die, we will not compromise"]

Thank you. [chanting continues]

Thank you. May God protect you. [slogans change to "Death to America," "Death to France"] [end recording]

In his Friday prayer sermons, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani discussed the resolution passed by the Security Council, a very important political and military victory for the Islamic Republic of Iran. He referred to the Persian Gulf issue, detailing the moves of world arrogance from the start of the imposed war. By placing weapons and Exocet missiles at Iraq's disposal and by their use of such intelligence sources as AWACS stationed in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and supplying these to Iraq, they wanted to stop us from exporting oil through the Persian Gulf. He said: In the face of these Iraqi moves, we did two things. First, we defended ourselves and fully equipped Khark Island, the most important center of our oil exports. Also, by setting up centers for the export of oil all over the Persian Gulf, we neutralized this plot hatched by world arrogance. Second, when Iraq began to attack oil tankers in the Gulf, we asked the countries of the southern regions of the Gulf to condemn Iraq and formally state that they would not give further assistance to Iraq. However, they did agree, and the crown prince of Kuwait explicitly declared several days ago that attacking Iraq means attacking Arab countries. Under these circumstances, we also objected to the presence of Iraq's partners in the war, and we attacked them in the Persian Gulf. Of course, it is divine fire [tir-e gheyb] that is hitting their vessels. We have said repeatedly that if we cannot use the Persian Gulf then no one can. Moreover, if they hit one of our ships, we will retaliate and will not accept responsibility for any attacks.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council stressed that Iran has a greater stake in the security of the Persian Gulf than any other country. He said that if arrogance also believes in the importance of the Gulf's security, it should ask Iraq not to embark on mischief in the Persian Gulf. Referring to the remarks made by Weinberger, the U.S. war minister [as heard], that the United States and Kuwait had signed a contract to reflag Kuwaiti ships 3 months ago, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The device that the United States used in the Persian Gulf episode was disclosed by their secretary of defense. It is clear that before Kuwait invited the Russians to come to the Persian Gulf, the United States had already planned to come. The USSR was deceived and the Americans benefited from this propaganda move because, threatened with the possible arrival of the Russians in the Gulf, the Americans brought their naval vessels there. The Soviet Union immediately realized its mistake and announced that there was no need for foreign vessels in the Persian Gulf. However, the Americans are continuing with their plans, and Britain, France, and Arab reaction are cooperating with them.

Referring to a recent *New York Times* article on Reagan's failing memory, psychological and physical weakness, and loss of power of concentration, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council remarked: The United States now wants to regain the honor it lost during the attempt to get closer to Iran and needs a new adventure. At the moment, the Persian Gulf provides a good opportunity. In order to calm the American people, the United States needed a great show of strength, but it was not well planned and became a show of weakness. The aim of the presence of U.S. warships in the Gulf was to prevent us from retaliating, but several ships anchor in Kuwaiti ports every day and Iran can retaliate easily.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council added: With this show of weakness, the United States has lost out, because we have adopted a new policy due to U.S. and Kuwaiti impudence. Up to now, Iraq has attacked our oil wells, our centers, and our installations, and we have not retaliated. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran has decided that if our wells, centers, and installations are attacked, we will attack the installations and center of Iraq's partners. This is a gift from the United States to the countries in the southern regions of the Persian Gulf. This is the punishment for the impudence of a superpower that says it is neutral. This adventurism of the United States and the Western bloc has made our nation understand how vindictive they are toward us. They are prepared to engage in bloodshed in this region in order to save Saddam. If any shots are exchanged between us, you should know that our nation will see to it that no American will set foot in this region for several decades.

Referring to the issue that France and Britain now regret this psychological war of the embassies, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: How are you frightening our nation? This psychological war is against yourself. You have eliminated the credibility of the Security Council in the world. Fifteen countries, months later, issue a resolution on the very day the United States flies its flags on Kuwaiti ships.

This is definitely a plot; the Security Council is a tool in your hands. The *Liberation* newspaper, which in its articles always attacks [nish-zadan] the Islam of the Islamic Republic, recently wrote that the Security Council's vote was disappointing. It was a surprise that the Security Council did not name the aggressor and said that by this omission the war will not come to an end. When one knows after 7 years that the Ba'thist party of Iraq began the war, and we know that you are lying, then how do you expect us to accept the resolution? If you did not have anything up your sleeve [rig dar kafsh], you would first have named the aggressor and then settled the war compensation.

Addressing the Security Council, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: You are liars. You still think that people should believe in the Security Council. He added: One of the paragraphs of the resolution states: No country in the world will be permitted to create tension in the Persian Gulf. However, on the morning after the resolution was issued, the United States did just that. If we had not behaved wisely and resorted to adventurism as you did, then what would have happened?

You have weakened the Security Council and have undermined peace by your actions. The best solution is to name the aggressor and put him on trial; tell Iraq not to attack and it in turn will not be attacked; tell Turkey, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia to close their routes; and tell the USSR and France not to supply arms. In this way, security will be maintained in the Persian Gulf. The last word of the Islamic Republic of Iran is: Without the trial and punishment of the aggressor, this war will not end. Otherwise, we will bring our fighters, overthrow Saddam, and try him in a court of our making.

Friday Prayers Congregation Hears Tanker Hits Mine

LD241115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] The news of the Kuwaiti tanker hitting a mine was conveyed this morning to the congregation during the Friday sermons delivered by 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The news received a tumultuous response. Shouting "Death to the United States," the congregation expressed their hatred for global arrogance and for the U.S. acts of intervention in the region.

Musavi: Mine Explosion Damages U.S. Credibility

LD241021 Tehran IRNA in English 1012 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said it was not the Kuwaiti tanker which had hit a mine in the Persian Gulf today but rather "U.S. credibility has been exposed to the mine explosion." The premier was commenting after the giant 41,382-ton oil tanker *Bridgeton* under U.S. escort, hit a mine 120 miles southeast of Kuwait early today.

Musavi told IRNA "this time too, the U.S. schemes were foiled by invisible hands and it was proved how vulnerable the Americans are despite their huge and unprecedented military expedition in the Persian Gulf."

He said although the Americans and their allies tried very hard for a month to detect the planted mines in the Persian Gulf and repeatedly announced that there were no more mines on the way of the ships "yet this incident was an irreparable blow on America's political and military prestige."

According to Musavi the incident was no less than the "*USS Stark* scandal." He expressed hope that the "wise men" in the United States would learn a lesson and put an immediate end to their tension creating adventures in the Persian Gulf.

Correspondent Reports on Tanker Hitting Mine

LD241144 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] One of the two Kuwaiti oil tankers presently sailing under the U.S. flag in the Persian Gulf, under the escort of three U.S. warships, struck a mine this morning and was damaged. Our correspondent reports on this incident:

[Begin recording] Today at noon, international news sources reported that a Kuwaiti oil tanker, while passing through international waters of the Persian Gulf close to the Kuwaiti coast, struck a naval mine. The sources noted that the Kuwaiti oil tanker, under the U.S. flag, was damaged. At the moment of filing this dispatch, the extent of the damage inflicted on this tanker has not been reported.

The giant Kuwaiti oil tanker, named *Bridgeton*, with a capacity of 400,000 tons, is one of the two oil tankers under the U.S. flag which has been escorted by the U.S. Navy for the last 3 days. At the time it struck the mine, the tanker was being escorted by three U.S. warships. The mine hit at a point some 200 feet along the tanker's deck. One report states that the oil tanker, with its 26 crew members, is moving and that none of the crew has been injured.

The tanker slowed down after it hit the mine, but it is said that the tanker has been able to continue its course toward Kuwait. It is expected to reach the Kuwaiti coast tonight. The spot where the tanker hit the mine was 40 miles further from the point where another ship had previously hit a mine, but this was the closest point to the Kuwaiti coast to witness a ship hitting a mine.

There have been previous incidents of ships and oil tankers hitting mines in the waters of the Persian Gulf. Some news circles believe that these mines were planted by the Iraqi regime in an effort to create tension in the region and to bring about expanded military entanglement in the Persian Gulf. These sources, meanwhile, note that this incident proves that the crude, hasty decision of the militarists of the White House to reflag Kuwaiti ships was a great mistake — a mistake that only 3 days after its implementation

has brought back the memory of the U.S. frigate *Stark*, which was targeted by the Iraqi regime.

One prediction says that further incidences of ships hitting mines, in the course of the coming days, will create more interesting events.

London Office of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [end recording]

IRGC Minister Says Iran Ready to Fight U.S.

PM241347 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Jul 87 p 2

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], by a *Keyhan* correspondent entitled: "IRGC Minister Says: 'We Are Ready To Go To War With United States If It Moves in Any Way Against Interests of Islamic Republic'"]

[Text] Two battalions of Mobilization and IRGC units designated "The Support and Specialized Caravan of the Persian Gulf Defenders" left the IRGC Ministry for the war fronts this morning. During this ceremony, the IRGC minister answered questions asked by a *Keyhan* correspondent. He said: We are ready to go to war with the United States if it moves in any way against the interests of the Islamic Republic.

Mohsen Rafiqdust, the IRGC minister; General Zahirnejad, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council; Colonel Samimi, chief of police; Colonel Mo'azami, Tehran's chief of police; IRGC deputies; and other military personnel and officials took part in the departure ceremonies for these troops.

According to our correspondent, there were readings from the holy Koran followed by a speech by Mohsen Rafiqdust, the IRGC minister. He commented on the provocations of the superpowers, especially the United States, in the Persian Gulf. He said: Our people know very well that world arrogance, especially the United States, has launched many plots against the Islamic Republic since the victory of the Islamic revolution in order to weaken our brave people's determination.

He added: "The Americans saw that these tricks did not work so they decided to enter the arena themselves. This is the ultimate wish of our people. We have been waiting for this day and are proud to be the first in the world to carry the banner against world arrogance. We are ready to engage the United States in the Persian Gulf."

The IRGC minister said: "Our war has passed the boundaries of air, land, and sea. Today the enemies of the Islamic Republic have turned to political warfare and are responsible for the embassy issue. They threaten us with an arms embargo and think we are fighting with imported weapons. We are fighting with arms made in our own country, and we will continue to do so. We will be victorious. We declare that the more hostile the arrogant powers are, the stronger our people will be and the firmer they will stand."

Rafiqdust added: We warn the regimes of the region, especially the Kuwaiti regime, that in this fight the first country to be sacrificed will be Kuwait. The aggressive Iraqi regime should know that the powerful warriors of Islam are ready to deliver even deadlier blows against the rotting body of that regime. We are determined to win this war. Nothing will stop the determination of the Iranian people.

The IRGC minister then answered a *Keyhan* question about U.S. provocations in the Persian Gulf and the reflagging of Kuwaiti tankers. He said: As the imam of ummah has said, we are not afraid; we will fight anyone. We are willing to fight the United States if it makes any move against the interests of the Islamic Republic. We are ready to give them a very severe answer. We will never allow the United States to threaten the Islamic Republic's interests in any way. The IRGC troops have announced their readiness to stand against the United States on land or on the sea.

He also commented on the decision of the UN Security Council: The Security Council's decision has importance only within its own circle. We will not accept a resolution passed by this council in the absence of the Islamic Republic.

The minister then talked about U.S. weaknesses in the Persian Gulf: The United States has many weaknesses. If God is willing, when they engage with the powerful forces of Islam these weaknesses will become obvious.

IRGC Spokesman Details 'Martyrdom' Exercises

LD231150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 JUL 87

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' [IRGC] first major exercises, codenamed "Martyrdom," will be held during the second half of Mordad [23 July-22 August] in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Sea of Oman with the participation of the Corps' mobilization forces.

At a news conference today, Mr Afshar, the IRGC spokesman, said: War at sea requires advanced equipment and technology, as well as prolonged training on a high level. For this reason, the United States and the Islamic revolution's other enemies never imagined that the IRGC, the popular forces, and the valiant inhabitants of the islands and southern shores on the Persian Gulf would be able to provide an effective military presence at sea so quickly. However, thanks to God's will, the enemy's conspiracies have led the Corps' naval forces to complete that long course speedily. It has been accomplished so quickly that today, with the presence of the Corps' selfless forces alongside the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, the enemies of Islam have been overcome by extraordinary fear and terror.

The IRGC spokesman added that the "Martyrdom" exercises will demonstrate to the world that the IRGC Navy has been able to engage the lovers of martyrdom, as well as the selfless mobilization forces, in the roaring waters of the sea. They will crush all arrogance. They will implement the Corps' special methods at sea, and, in common with its ground action, create the astonishing combination of a selfless, martyrdom-seeking spirit with advanced equipment that the Corps has produced. They will

demonstrate to the United States that not only will an arms embargo fail to have the slightest impact on the resistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the steadfastness of the heroic Iranian ummah, but it will also lead to the growth of our industrial and military self-sufficiency.

'Persian Gulf Defenders' Rally in Tehran

LD241114 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — Thousands of volunteer forces including civil servants participated in a rally under 'Persian Gulf Defenders' maneuvers to voice support for Iranian Muslim combatants fighting Iraqi troops on the battlefields.

In Tehran, the marchers in well organized ranks rallied towards Tehran University where they joined the ranks of Friday prayers worshippers. Similar rallies were held in other cities throughout the country.

KEYHAN Comments on Security Council Resolution

PM241405 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Jul 87 p 20

[Editorial by Yunis Shokrhah: "What Aim Is the Security Council Session Pursuing?"]

[Text] The UN Security Council is scheduled to meet to discuss the Iran-Iraq war. The permanent members of the Council — the United States, the USSR, Britain, France, and China — and the temporary members — Argentina, the Congo, the UAE, Ghana, and Zambia — have prepared the text of the council's resolution.

This resolution is about to be passed at a time when three of its permanent members, the United States, France, and Britain, are engaged in a widespread psychological war in the Persian Gulf and at their embassies. Britain and France are considered to be U.S. tools in this issue.

From news circulated so far it seems that, in addition to bringing up the general issues that exist in Iraq's war against Iran, the resolution is based on sanctions to be imposed on Iran if Iran does not agree to accept the imposed resolution. The unfortunate thing is that the temporary members of the Security Council are raising their hopes for this resolution at a time when U.S. adventurism in the Persian Gulf takes on new dimensions each day.

How can the temporary members of the Council have any hopes for a resolution when the United States, one of its strategists, has broken its so-called promise of neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war by escorting Kuwaiti ships in the Persian Gulf — thereby joining the Iraqi camp? The temporary members of the Council can see the Americans' warmongering in the Persian Gulf and can see the war of the embassies started by Britain and France. They have thus lowered the level of their diplomatic efforts to that of the militarist intentions of the United States in the Persian Gulf.

The prepared draft resolution includes an immediate cease-fire and withdrawal to international borders, and an exchange of prisoners. These points are all repeated in the Council's February 1986 resolution, so its repetition means that the Council is actually siding with the U.S. plans for the Persian Gulf. In addition to this, the Council's resolution is based on sanctions; this also demonstrates that this body is siding with the United States.

The Security Council knows full well that it has not agreed to any of Iran's demands. Therefore, as far as Iran is concerned, its points and details cannot be implemented. Yet they still speak of sanctions. Iran has repeatedly asked the Council to name Iraq as the instigator of the 1980 war. The Council has not yet done this. Iran has complained to the Council many times about Iraq's use of chemical weapons — complaints which have not once been followed up by the United Nations. As far as the Security Council is concerned, Iraq is still not using chemical weapons. The Council did not even condemn the savage bombardment of Iran's civilian areas. Why does it still insist on passing a resolution?

The Council is trying to find a political cover for U.S. military actions in one coordinated move. However, it does not know that the political aspect of the resolution, which is based on anti-Iranian principles, depends on how the United States will extricate itself from the quagmire of the Persian Gulf. In reality, the UN Security Council resolution is an act of punishment by the United States, France, and Britain against the Islamic Republic.

Thatcher, who supports Reagan's plans in the Persian Gulf, took a trip this week to the United States and arranged final coordination with Reagan at a time when London was playing host to a group of Iraq's supporters during the past few weeks.

The Council's backing of France, Britain, and the United States is so great that Howe and Barre [as published], the British and French foreign ministers, who have both received blows from Iran, will personally take part in the Council session tomorrow.

Perhaps the biggest mistake of the Council, one which will cause its resolution to be defeated quickly, is its timing. The Security Council did not even wait to see what would happen to the United States in the Persian Gulf.

Musavi Says State To Use Religious Punishments

LD231301 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi today advised all the country's ministries, organizations, Islamic revolution institutions, and governorates general of the permission given by His Emminence the Imam concerning the use by the state of religious punishments in an effort to deal decisively with the problem of rising prices, as well as the implementation of the criteria and predetermined prices by the government. This announcement was made in a circular.

According to IRNA, the circular says, in part:

A commission in the Prime Ministry has been ordered to prepare a precise set of rules and regulations for the implementation of religious punishments in this regard. This has been done to

establish unity of procedure in the state's enforcement of religious punishments in the fight against profiteering, and also to avoid unwanted excesses in its implementation. The result of the commission's work will soon be communicated to the proper authorities. It is necessary for the existing procedures, as well as previous instructions, to continue until this set of rules and regulations is released.

Mirzadeh Explains Anti-Inflation Project

LD181358 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Benefiting from the special powers of the prime minister, the implementation of the project to combat price hikes and halt inflation by controlling the price of 22 essential commodities began today throughout the country.

According to a Central News Unit report, Mr Mirzadeh, deputy prime minister and head of the State Economic Mobilization Headquarters, was interviewed by reporters today. In announcing this news he said: Under the present circumstances, combating price hikes and controlling inflation will support the war and war efforts. It is a move on the part of true supporters of the revolution and the deprived strata in society and takes into account the interests of the people. He added: In implementing this project, $2.2 billion in foreign currency has been allocated for the purchase of essential commodities. Thus far over $700 million of the allocated foreign exchange has been purchased, with the rest to be purchased later.

He added: This project is based on four foreign currency axis of essential commodities needed by the population. It will place distribution systems, including the coupon and noncoupon systems, on a sound footing and provide (?regulations) controlling prices and cooperation between the people and the government to combat price hikes by controlling the price of wheat, flour, bread, vegetable oil, sugar, rice, meat, poultry, eggs, imported butter, imported cheese, dried milk and baby food, washing powder, soap, stationery, basic fruit and vegetables, tea, dried milk for cattle, milk and pasturized yogurt, gas cylinders, regular and liquid gas, engine oil, brake oil, truck and bus tires, matches, cigarettes and pipe tobacco. Governors general and governors are responsible for implementing this project with the cooperation of the people and of the executive powers.

He added: Some controls will also be exercised over foreign exchange from export proceeds and rent from commercial exchanges and buildings. Continuing his remarks, he said: In order to place distribution systems on a sound footing it has been decided to determine proper methods for the distribution of commodities, whether imported or produced domestically, through coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Economic Mobilization Headquarters. These will be applicable to all production, imported and distribution units, including the private, public, and government sectors.

Referring to the enforcement of this project, he said: The vital importance of the sinister elements moving against the interests of the people has now become clear to all officials. This popular government project involves the cooperation of 12,000 inspectors drawn from workers, employees, and local elders.

The following penalties will be applied to offenders: suspension of their trade license; stopping their trading from 3 months to a year; in the case of a repeat offence, stopping their trading completely and cutting off their public services such as electricity, water, telephone, gas, oil, and credit facilities. [passage omitted]

PRC Minister Discusses Sports Cooperation

Meets With Mirzadeh

LD230635 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 22, IRNA — Visiting Chinese minister in charge of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission Li Menghua met with deputy premier for executive affairs and head of Tehran-Beijing Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation Hamid Mirzadeh, here Wednesday.

The Chinese minister briefed Mirzadeh on his talks with officials of Iran's physical education organization. He also expressed satisfaction with athletic developments in Iran over the past few years. Li Menghua said that existing Sino-Iranian cooperation should be expanded to include greater sports collaboration.

In response, the deputy premier mentioned the historical cultural bonds between the two sides saying that Iran-China joint commission will seek to carry out a major part of the objectives of protocol signed between the two countries. He also said their strategic relations can play a key role in determining the issues of the region.

Mirzadeh expressed hope that athletic affairs would provide an opportunity for the two countries to cement bilateral technical and economic cooperation at the annual session of the joint commission to be held shortly in Tehran.

Sports has played a valuable role in preserving morale of the revolutionary Iranian people, said Mirzadeh adding that fundamental development underway in Iran would continue in all dimensions, especially in sports affairs.

The Chinese minister expressed hope that Iran would assist China in holding the 11th Asian games in Beijing in 1990.

Menghua arrived here Monday night at the head of a delegation.

Confers With Mansuri

LD221854 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 22, IRNA — China's minister in charge of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission Li Menghua conferred with deputy foreign minister for cultural and consular affairs Javad Mansuri, here Wednesday.

The two sides stressed on the need for expansion of Tehran-Beijing athletic relations, calling for coordinated policies to counter business-oriented professionalism in sports.

At the meeting, Li Menghua called on Iran to actively participate in the 11th Asian games to be held in 1990.

The Chinese minister who heads a delegation visted Sa'd-Abad Museum earlier today.

Li Menghua arrived here Monday night at the invitation of head of Iran's physical education organization, Ahmad Dargahi.

Curfew To Be Relaxed in Karachi Areas 24 Jul

BK231642 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Curfew will be relaxed in the curfew bound areas of Karachi tomorrow from 1230-1500 [0730-1000 GMT]. Karachi administration said the situation in the affected areas remained normal (?today).

Iran's Larijani Delivers Message to President

LD230940 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Islamabad, July 23, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic and International Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani currently here met Pakistan's president General Ziaul Haq and conveyed to him President Khamene'i's oral message Wednesday.

Expressing his condolences to Pakistani people and government over the death and injury of hundreds of people in the recent bomb blast in Karachi, the Iranian president in his message hoped that such 'inhuman efforts' would not affect Pakistan's explicit stance in supporting the oppressed Afghan nation.

General Ziaul Haq in response expressed satisfaction over the 'friendly' bilateral relations and said any confrontation in the Persian Gulf would be detrimental to the regional countries.

In another development, Larijani in a meeting with Pakistani Premier Mohammad Khan Junejo Wednesday submitted him Prime Minister Musavi's 'good-will' message.

Larijani said if the United States intended to cut off Iran's oil flow, it would mean U.S. involvement in the Iraqi-imposed war. Consequently, he added, the United States shoulders the 'unavoidable consequences' of the confrontation.

The deputy foreign minister noted that Iran favored safe shipping in the Persian Gulf and welcomed 'any political plan' to put a halt to attacks on oil tankers. Yet, he added, the U.S. expedition to the Persian Gulf would only aggravate the situation.

Larijani said Iran would powerfully confront the United States if it intended to menace Iran's interests, emphasizing that the Islamic Republic was willing to cooperate with any country endeavoring to root out the Persian Gulf crisis.

Junejo emphasized the significance of the Persian Gulf and supported the idea that the war should not spread in the region. Furthermore, he described Tehran-Islamabad ties as 'excellent' and stressed that the two sides should make efforts to further strengthen bilateral relations. At the end of the meeting Larijani invited Junejo on behalf of his Iranian counterpart to visit Iran.

Larijani also held talks with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan Wednesday where the two sides discussed the Persian Gulf issues.

Larijani pointing to the Security Council resolution on the Iraqi-imposed war asserted that Iran believes it would not bring stability and peace to the region. He added the United States was the first country to violate the resolution by despatching its forces to the region despite its call to refrain from any action which may escalate the tension in the region.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said the situation in the Persian Gulf was 'very critical' adding that Pakistan believes security in the region might be restored through political preparations. Emphasizing the exchange of political delegations between the two countries he invited Foreign Minister 'Ali Akhbar Velayati to visit Pakistan.

Views on latest developments in the Persian Gulf, ways to expand Tehran-Islamabad cooperation at the international level as well as matters concerning Afghanistan were also exchanged in Larijani's meetings with other Pakistani Foreign Ministry officials.

Spokesman Comments on Ties to Iran, Gulf Situation

BK240527 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Pakistan has again expressed its deep concern over the deteriorating situation in the Gulf, as well as the hope that the current situation, which has assumed dangerous proportions, will be brought under control. In Islamabad today, a Foreign Office spokesman said that the situation in the Gulf [words indistinct] is more dangerous than at any time in the last 7 years. The spokesman noted that the spread of violence in the Gulf will not only further destablize the region, but also endanger every country in it.

Responding to a question, the spokesman said that although we are neither unconcerned nor indifferent to the situation, Pakistan has been neutral in the Gulf war. He affirmed that Pakistan has been making individual and collective efforts to bring an end to this war between the two brotherly nations, but to no avail. The spokesman stated Pakistan's hope that the foreign secretary's visit to Tehran, and his earlier visits to Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, will promote mutual understanding among the countries of the region. As a part of these consultations, he said that the foreign secretary will visit Iraq, other countries of the Gulf, Bahrain, and Qatar next week.

With regard to the visit by Dr Javad Larijani, the Iranian deputy foreign minister, the spokesman asserted that it has provided both countries with another opportunity to exchange views. He apprised Pakistan of Iran's stand on the UN Security Council resolution adopted last Monday. Both parties also considered various aspects of their bilateral relations. The spokesman said that Larijani has made known the Government of Iran's firm stand on Pakistan's sovereignty. The Iranian Government has stated that it will neither support nor endorse the activity of any Iranian citizen which is deterimental to law and order in Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan has also assured Iran that it will not allow its territory to be used for any such activity aimed at damaging peace and security. The spokesman noted that, at Iran's request, Pakistan will formally look after Iranian interests in Paris within a few days. This decision was made after Iran and

France broke diplomatic relations. Similarly, Italy will look after French interests in Tehran.

The spokesman added that the government has initiated an immediate high-level inquiry into the alleged attempt to export a special type of steel from the United States to Pakistan in violation of the laws of the country. The spokesman said that from reports received thus far, it is understood that this is a conspiracy among those opposed to better U.S.-Pakistan relations. Moreover, the motive behind this attempt is to block the approval of the U.S. aid package to Pakistan for 1987-93. He affirmed that neither the Government of Pakistan nor any of its agencies are involved in the alleged export of this type of steel from the United States.

He reiterated Pakistan's position to use its atomic program only for peaceful purposes and not to use uranium for making bombs. He said that Pakistan has acquired the capacity to enrich uranium to the extent of meeting its energy needs and does not want to use it for anything else. In reply to a question, the spokesman asserted that Pakistan is ready to allow its atomic installations to be inspected on a bilateral or regional basis; but it will not allow any inspection on a partisan basis.

Jurisprudence Group Statement on Gulf Situation

LD231743 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Islamabad, July 23, IRNA — The Movement for the Enforcement of Ja'fari Jurisprudence in Pakistan (TNFJ) released a statement warning the U.S. that its interests all over the world would be endangered if it dared to attack the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The statement said that the superpowers, particularly the imperialist U.S., never want to see security in the Islamic world. They have been generating sedition and corruption in the farthest reaches of the world by employing the most barbarous methods to preserve their interests, it added.

Stressing that Muslims around the globe were ready to retaliate against the U.S. in any part of the world, the statement warned that any attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran would be considered an act of war against the whole Islamic world. Consequently, it added, the U.S. interests would not be safe on the planet if Washington would do such a folly. The Iraqi-imposed war, it said, would continue unless the aggressor was identified and punished.

The statement concluded that the only way to restore security in the Persian Gulf was the withdrawal of U.S. warships from the region and forcing the Iraqi regime to stop attacking commercial ships as well as oil tankers.

Justice Minister Comments on Visit to China

BK230650 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Pakistan and China have discussed ways to increase cooperation in the field of public security. There are bright prospects for cooperation in many fields due to the cordial and friendly ties existing between the two countries. Mr Wasim Sajjad, the federal minister for interior, justice, and parliamentary affairs, made this statement during an interview with a Radio Pakistan correspondent in Islamabad after returning from China. He added that he had discussed cooperation in these fields during his meetings with the Chinese minister for public security, the deputy prime minister, and the minister for justice.

Mr Wasim Sajjad said that he was deeply impressed by the quality of training in Beijing's police academy. He referred to the agreement concluded between the two countries during his visit under which visas are not required for official and diplomatic passports. He noted that several other matters were not covered due to the fact that the recent incidents in Karachi had forced him to cut short his visit and return to the country.

Accord on Ethnic Issue Reached; Gandhi To Visit

BK231623 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1613 GMT 23 Jul 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 23 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Sri Lankan Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Gamini Dissanayake, announced this evening that the final accord to end the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has been reached as the government parliamentary group today approved President J.R. Jayewardene's proposals, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation announced and the national television network Rupavahani said in its news telecast tonight.

The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka J.N. Dixit will leave for India tomorrow to convey the decision to Rajiv Gandhi. The Indian prime minister has agreed to visit Sri Lanka within the next 10 days in this connection.

Mr Dissanayake made this statement at the annual general meeting of the Sri Lanka Energy Management Association held this evening at Hotel Galadari Meredien in Colombo.

President Wants Political Solution to Ethnic Issue

BK231154 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] President J.R. Jayewarene said yesterday that the government wanted to find a political solution to the ethnic problem through democratic and nonviolent means with the endorsement of the people. He said the United National Party [UNP] has resolved to settle the problem in accordance with these principles. Mr Jayewardene pointed out that this decision of the party should be approved by the cabinet and the government parliamentary group and later endorsed by parliament. No action outside this framework is anticipated.

The president stressed that if this could not be done, they were not reluctant to hold general elections. Mr Jayewardene described these measures as democratic steps to prevent the country falling into a precipice. He said that the government did not want a military solution to the problem because it involved the loss of life. He added that we are today at the crossroad of the crisis. The president was speaking at a public rally held in the (Peta) yesterday to mark the 10th year in office of the present UNP government. The rally was organized by the (?4th) Jathika Sevaka [National Workers] Union.

Speaking further, Mr Jayewardene said that we should respect discipline if we are to progress as a nation. Discipline formed the basis of humanity.

Mr Jayewardene said that the government was today acting in accordance with the traditions of human discipline and democracy, but certain sections were trying to destroy them.

The president described democracy as the most viable system in the world today, and said that the UNP has safeguarded and is dedicated to safeguarding the democratic freedom. He said that Sri Lanka was the first country in the Asian region to change the government through a democratic vote.